



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Is Noe Valley Seeing a Post-9/11 Baby Boom?

By Olivia Boler

Let's face it: If you aren't pushing a baby stroller down 24th Street, then you're probably trying to avoid getting run over by one. For years, Noe Valley has had a reputation as one of the most baby-friendly neighborhoods in San Francisco. So, in light of the forecasts of a post-Sept. 11 baby boom, we thought we'd ask around town to see if the neighborhood can expect a few extra deliveries from the stork this summer.

While no one is able to back up their claims with exact statistics on pregnant women due to give birth from June through October, the local consensus is yes, we are likely to experience a bump (and more than a few burps) in the baby population in July and August.

Dr. Nayana Anne of Noe Valley Pediatrics on 24th Street near Dolores says in the past she used to see only one or two pregnant women a week. This spring, that number has risen to two to three expectant mothers a day.

"It's hard to say why there are more new moms, though," says Dr. Anne, whose patients are mostly residents of Noe Valley or Bernal Heights. "I thought it might have to do with the dot-coms. Many of the



Barbara Schenkel, Jamie Buffington, and Liz O'Brien, seen fresh from yoga class, will be among the women boosting the neighborhood's baby rolls this summer. Photo by Pamela Gerard

moms are in their late 20s to early 30s. They lost their jobs and decided that now was a good time to start a family."

Lisa Moresco of Natural Resources on Castro Street is also certain that there are more babies on the way. Natural Resources is a center that provides information on childbirth, as well as classes and support groups for expectant mothers. According to Moresco, her business was very slow in the months leading up to Sept. 11, but has been busy ever since.

"We've been booming," Moresco says. "There's going to be a huge boom, I think, because people are reaching for their families more. They've realized that life is not a rat race. No one wants to be the last rat standing—they want to be a family of rats!"

Carol Yenne of Small Frys on 24th Street agrees. Her store, which sells clothes and accessories for infants to small children, is doing well. Business

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

Beaking News

Nervous Blackbirds Dive-Bomb 24th Street Pedestrians

By Elliot Poger

Neighborhood residents have begun to look over their shoulders while withdrawing cash from the Washington Mutual ATMs at the corner of Noe and 24th streets. But it's not muggers they're worried about.

As Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo told members of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association at the group's May meeting, some shoppers on the 3900 block of 24th Street are being driven away by aggressive, pushy, mean...blackbirds.

"They were expecting me to say panhandlers," chuckles Lombardo.

Perhaps enticed by falling rents or attractive interest rates on platinum checking accounts, a family of blackbirds has nested in a tree in front of Washington Mutual, next door to the gift store Just for Fun. Over a few weeks in late May and early June, many humans walking on the sidewalk underneath the tree were surprised to get a peck on the head from a swooping blackbird.

The merchants were particularly interested in what Lombardo had to say because revenue has been down slightly at shops along 24th Street, due to the generally sluggish economy. And any factor that makes people reluctant to shop in our local stores seems worth addressing. But in the case of these Hitchcockian birds, most nearby shopkeepers are inclined to let nature run its course.

Some Victims Traumatized

Safely inside Just for Fun, sales associate Lala Senanayake tells co-worker

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

Are We on Vacation Yet?

Those few sunny days fooled us. Plus, the delightful smells of ballfield dust and cut grass. Barbecue. Car washes in church parking lots. Kids playing outside past dark. It's summer, right? But we're in San Francisco. Put the shorts back in the drawer. Find the parka.

Better yet, we'll go somewhere. Somewhere warm. We love ya, Noe Valley, but until there's a way to stop the fog and wind from coming over Twin Peaks, we're going to take a month off. This issue of the *Voice* will have to last you until September, because we'll be out of the office during the month of July. We return in August. Get your letters, calendar, class ads, and news items to us by Aug. 15. For display ads, the deadline is Aug. 16 (call Steve at 239-1114). And don't forget that the postage rate is now 37¢ for up to one ounce of communication.

Until then, be cool, but not cold.

—Sally Smith and Jack Tipple
Editors and Co-Publishers.



Liberation Radio Points Its Antenna Our Way

By Erin O'Briant

A house on a hill in the Castro is now broadcasting Liberation to the residents of Noe Valley.

For those not yet in the know, that's

San Francisco Liberation Radio at 93.7 FM. The "micro" (100-watt) station is already a San Francisco underground favorite, but until the volunteer producers moved their transmitter to the Castro, the left-leaning, non-commercial station mostly reached residents of the Sunset, Richmond, and Parkside districts.

Liberation Radio began broadcasting from its new home in May, and has been offering free-thinking radio to listeners in the eastern part of San Francisco ever since.

Sarah Olson is musical director for a micro radio station that recently found a home on the hill separating Noe and Eureka valleys.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

So how did a nine-year-old Sunset District radio station end up broadcasting in Noe Valley?

According to Valencia Street resident Sarah Olson, who is Liberation Radio's musical director, former station host

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Welcome Home. We start this month off with a holiday. Good idea. Having made it through half the year 2002, we look forward with gratitude and hope. Thanks to those who watch over us while we rest, and thanks to all who offer questions and understanding about enemies real and imagined. What could be better than coming home to Noe Street after doing our part in the work for peace?

Photo by Pamela Gerard

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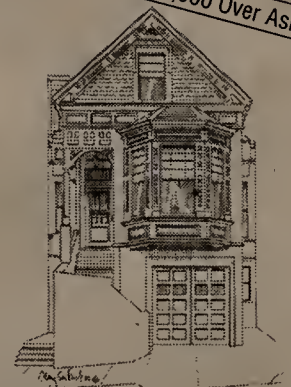
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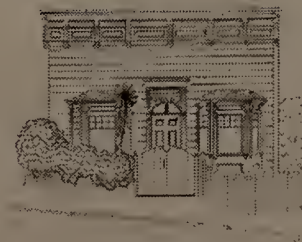
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Kathy Zucchi of the financial services firm Edward Jones hasn't completed her training yet. That's because the training program at Edward Jones is ongoing throughout an investment representative's career.

"At Edward Jones, my training began on day one and hasn't stopped," Kathy said. "That's one of the things that initially drew me to the firm. I know that people wouldn't trust their health to a doctor whose knowledge is outdated, and they shouldn't trust their financial health to an investment representative whose training isn't current."

John Bachmann, managing partner of the firm, said that Edward Jones investment representatives are carefully chosen from among the best in the industry. After being hired, they go through one of the most rigorous training programs in the industry, involving three months of 10-hour days, six days a week.

"The scope and complexity of today's investments require continual training on the part of investment representatives," Bachmann said. "We believe that a better-educated representative is simply a better investment representative."

Throughout Kathy's career with Edward Jones, she will receive instruction on investments, how to better meet the needs of investors, and the proper ethical behavior for an Edward Jones representative. She will attend advanced training classes, both at the firm's headquarters in St. Louis and in other parts of the country. In fact, many brokers are given the opportunity to meet in person with portfolio managers from some of the nation's largest money managers.

Kathy said she knows that the ongoing training will be challenging but worthwhile.

"After all, my clients can't afford for me not to be on top of things," she added.

Edward Jones, the only major financial services firm advising individual investors exclusively, traces its roots to 1871, and currently serves more than 5 million clients. The firm offers its clients a variety of investments, including certificates of deposit, taxable and non-taxable bonds, stocks, and mutual funds.

The largest firm in the nation in terms of branch offices, Edward Jones currently has more than 8,000 offices in the U.S. and, through its affiliates, in Canada and the United Kingdom. Plans call for expansion to 10,000 offices by 2003.

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Kathleen Zucchi

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LETTERS 37¢

How About IKEA?

Editor:

From the photograph of her in your June issue, Kathy Zucchi, new president of the Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association, shows good taste and good judgment in having pugs as pets. Everything else she has to say seems totally wrongheaded.

She goes on about how she loves Noe Valley and then says she wants to change it into a "destination neighborhood" (while opposing space for City CarShare in the public parking lot). She wants a Williams-Sonoma store, and then what? A Gap? Pottery Barn? Maybe we could dump those mom-and-pop corner stores and lure in some 7-Elevens? Noe Valley doesn't need to be further homogenized by chain stores into some tackier mall combo of Union Street and Stonestown.

As for a street fair, didn't we have one in the '70s and '80s that was dropped because of mounting problems and lack of interest?

Normally I have no problem with business associations. Let them meet, chat each other up, have lunches or dinners, put up decorations, whatever. But if this suburbanizing chain-store stuff is going to be the policy of the Noe Valley Merchants Association, I would be happy to join, or even help organize, a neighborhood boycott of the member stores.

David Erikson
Noe Valley resident

Hats Off to Police Beat

Editor:

Hey, neighbors over there in Noe Valley! I have to tell you that your online edition of the *Noe Valley Voice* is one of the most inspiring examples of the word "community" that I have ever run across.

In particular, I would like to commend Kathy Dalle-Molle, who writes your most excellent Police Beat column. She has apparently found a way to tap into a rich source of information from the SFPD's Mission Station. If she has any suggestions as to how we might follow her example over here in the Civic Center, which is Northern Station territory, I'd love to hear them. All we get are raw crime statistics, instead of something more alive, relevant, and useful in preventing neighborhood crimes.

We salute the talent that is packed into the *Noe Valley Voice* and your inspiring contribution to San Francisco's overall reputation as a patchwork quilt of great neighborhoods!

David Noor
Fox Plaza Tenants Association

Editor's Suggestion: Your best bet is to get to know the beat officers in your neighborhood. They'll help plead your case with the brass at Northern Station.

Combing the World for Galileo Grads

Editor:

This is to announce the re-formation of the Galileo Alumni Association. Re-formed in January of 2002, our group is looking for alumni from Galileo for all years. Please contact us for additional information at Galileo Academy of Science and Technology Alumni Association, 1150 Francisco Street, San Francisco, CA 94109.

In addition, one of our members has created "A Decade at Galileo High School: The '50s," an Internet web site devoted to the alumni of the 1950s. It can be viewed at <http://GalileoHS50s.homestead.com>. The site also lists all the known upcoming events.

Phil Kaiser
Via e-mail

Bid Farewell to Victorians

Editor:

It seems as if more and more historic buildings are being demolished in Noe Valley and new buildings thrown up simply to maximize developers' profits. One block from where I live, two large original Victorian houses on Chattanooga Street are currently undergoing this threat by a developer who recently purchased the properties to build new condos and sell for quick profit. The historical significance of such buildings to our neighborhood and city seems to be ignored. The idea of restoring and expanding the buildings is discarded as less profitable. So another Victorian is bulldozed and gone forever.

Mark Olson
22nd Street

Splitting Hairs Over Dog Policy

Editor:

You published an article by Erin O'Briant, "Hackles Raised Over New Dog Policy," in your June 2002 issue that contained major misstatements of fact.

O'Briant wrote that "[d]og owners in Noe Valley are growling at the San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission for passing a tough leash law in early May."

This is false. It is a policy, not a law. More importantly, it is not a new leash law. The leash law is very old and was not changed by this policy.

Further she stated, "It [Day Street Park] is one of only four parks in the city with a fenced area set aside for dogs." Wrong, there are 19 legal off-leash areas.

Please have your journalists check their facts.

Kevin Wallace
Via e-mail

Erin O'Briant Replies: The city's new dog park policy is indeed a policy and not a law, as Kevin Wallace points out. But since you can get a ticket for breaking this new policy, it sure sounds like a law to me. Also, the policy will put teeth into the existing leash laws by restricting off-leash dogs to fenced-off dog runs within most city parks (or banning them from small parks altogether). According to Rec and Park, there were 19 designated off-leash areas before adoption of the new policy in May. But under the new policy, there are only four parks in San Francisco that still qualify as legal dog runs. Most other parks will have to come up with specially marked dog areas by next fall.



LETTERS to the EDITOR

THE VOICE welcomes your letters to the editor. Write the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or send e-mail to jack@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number. (Anonymous letters will not be considered for publication.) You may also send us mail via our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com. Letters may be edited for brevity or clarity.

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Look for More Baby Strollers in Noe

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has increased in the past few weeks, and customers are buzzing about babies due later in the summer and early fall.

"It may be that right after 9/11, people were more interested in shopping in neighborhoods because there were [supposed] threats to malls," Yenne speculates. "Also, the size of purchases has increased. People are sometimes spending fifty to a hundred dollars on shower gifts."

Overall, Yenne expects a 5 to 10 percent increase in sales this summer and business is already up 10 to 15 percent from last year.

Hospital Docs Don't See an Uptick

Others, however, see this year's baby bubble as nothing out of the ordinary. Paul Morgan of Peek-a-Bootique, a Castro Street retailer of secondhand kids' clothes, toys, and furniture, says his sales have remained stable this spring.

"In the last five years, there's been a baby boom," says Morgan, whose store has been in Noe Valley for 12 years. "But I haven't noticed a fluctuation in the last year or nine months."

And many hospitals in the area are re-

luctant to say there's been an increase in pregnant women. Eve Harris of UCSF's Public Affairs says that the clinic obstetricians, who see all of the hospital's pregnant patients, have not noticed an uptick in those patient numbers. The obstetrics nurses at St. Luke's Hospital, which also serves the Noe Valley community, have not seen a rise in pregnant mothers either.

Pat Marjavi, a delivery nurse for Kaiser Permanente Hospital, says the doctors she questioned are actually anticipating fewer babies. "I haven't seen anything that would give rise to the idea that we're having a baby boom," Marjavi says. "And the doctors I talked to actually thought that the events of 9/11 would make people more pessimistic about having children."

Families Invest in the Future

But many people reject that notion. Kim Johnson Krummel, a 29th Street resident who is expecting her first baby on July 9, says she was deeply affected by the terrorist attacks, but that she and her husband, who had already been trying to conceive, were not swayed to give up.

"It was strange, because I had this duality of feelings," Krummel says. "On the one hand, I was saddened [by the terror attacks]. My husband and I stayed home and meditated right after they happened. But I think that trying to get pregnant makes you feel really introverted, and we were really happy because of what we

were trying to do. So while I felt great sadness, I also felt really joyful."

Krummel, who will deliver her baby at home, admits that being pregnant while her country is at war is strange, but that it didn't change her mind about wanting to have a child now.

Alexandra Torre of Sanchez Street agrees. She and her husband have been trying to get pregnant for almost two years and are expecting their first baby in October. If anything, Sept. 11 reaffirmed their desire to have a child and invest in the future. "Some friends ask me, how can we bring a child into a horrible world," Torre says. "But I'm an optimist. I think my life has been good, and I can pass on my life experiences to a child. We don't know what will happen next, but I think the terrorist attacks were an anomaly."

Gabrielle Edwards, who lives on Jersey Street and is expecting her second child on Oct. 9, is originally from Germany. She says that feeling anxious about one's safety is a new experience for Americans, but not for others around the world. What concerns her most is security while traveling, especially since her husband must travel for work.

"The security at American airports has always been laughable," Edwards claims. "Security at the European airports has always been much tighter. As a mother, you see this."

All three women attend Elizabeth

Bassemir's prenatal yoga class at Open Door Yoga on the corner of Castro and 25th streets. Bassemir, who has been teaching yoga in the Bay Area for six years, has noticed an increase in attendance, but is reluctant to call it a post-Sept. 11 baby boom.

"I don't usually ask my students if their pregnancies are planned," Bassemir says. "In 2000, I saw a small boom because people wanted to have a millennium baby. But it does make sense that after a crisis, you reach for your loved ones." She shrugs. "Sex can be very comforting. It can bring people closer."

And it can lead to babies. Whether or not Noe Valley will see a baby boom this year because of Sept. 11 (or the dot-com demise) is still uncertain at this stage. But watch out for those baby strollers—all signs indicate they'll be multiplying. □

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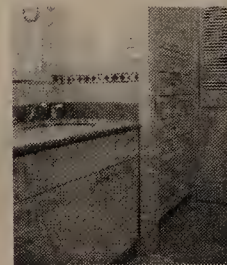
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Liberation Radio Can Now Be Heard In the Neighborhood

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Richard Edmondson had devoted most of his home to the station for eight years. He was ready to move the transmitter at the same time two residents of the Castro became interested in starting a radio station.

Karoline Hatch says it was her idea that the station should move to her parents' home. Hatch, who hosts Liberation's "Little Sister Show" on Sunday evenings, had just returned from studying at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she participated in a micro radio station. "When I came back, I was talking to my parents about pirate radio, and I mentioned that their house would be an excellent place to have a radio station," she says.

Meanwhile, her parents — who prefer to go by their aliases, Junior Sierra and Carmen LaSalle — were increasingly frustrated with mainstream media's news coverage. "We cancelled all of our newspapers because all the news we were getting was really bad—bombing tiny countries that didn't have an army or an air force," says Sierra. "We thought, What can we do?" They considered starting their own station, but decided to host Liberation Radio instead.

It seems having a radio station downstairs is no problem for Sierra and LaSalle. Their house has a basement with a separate entrance that serves as studio

space. The transmitter is kept in the house itself, and the antenna is on the roof. "We enjoy it," Sierra says. "We listen to [the station] a lot now. It's good programming."

Because the Hatch home is on a hill and because that hill is situated east of Twin Peaks (and midway between Eureka Valley and Noe Valley), Liberation Radio reaches a much larger audience than before.

"I have no idea how many listeners we have," Olson admits. Still, she says the station has received lots of calls and e-mails since it began broadcasting from the new location on May 11. "We've gotten calls from people in the Mission, the Castro, Noe Valley, Bayview-Hunters Point, downtown, and even Berkeley and Alameda. And I haven't heard anything that's not positive."

The station airs daily from 4 to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. Offerings include political commentary, news, music, poetry, and combinations thereof. Tune in one evening after work and you might catch anything from local writers reading their latest work to a deejay spinning blues or folk.

Olson and the other volunteers don't donate their time just for entertainment, though. "I want to emphasize the political nature of being a micro radio station," Olson says. "The reason I do micro radio is I feel that there's this completely void media wasteland that exists, and it's all piped-in music with very little news, very little of anything of substance."

There's plenty of substance available at Liberation Radio. "We have something

like 40 different deejays, and each is a programmer and creates his or her own show," Olson explains.

And simply airing the programs is an act of civil disobedience. Liberation Radio is not registered with the Federal Communications Commission due to the FCC's restrictive requirements for small radio stations. Liberation Radio shut down in 1998 after a court order against a sister station in the East Bay, but resumed broadcasting several months later—even though the station has since received a notice of noncompliance.

For now, though, Liberation Radio will remain on the airwaves. And the station will continue to try to expand its audience. "We're trying to get an omnidirectional antenna, instead of one that points in just one direction," Olson says.

Meanwhile, the producers would love to hear from Noe Valley listeners. "We're here and we're part of the community," Olson notes. "We're definitely looking for community input."

You can visit Liberation Radio's web site at www.liberationradio.net or call the station at 415-648-9222. □



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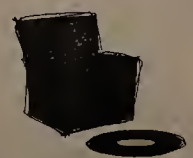
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The Suspects

Police report that some avian moms have been pecking pedestrians, as well as stealing hats and strands of hair, for possible use in their nests along 24th Street. The Voice captured these suspects on film in early June. Take a good look at them.

Photos by Elliot Poger

Birds Protecting Their Young

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Joanna Yip of her first brush with the birds earlier that day.

"I was walking down the sidewalk, just before walking into the store, and it came sweeping down and grabbed a little bit of my hair and then took off again."

Though she's unharmed, Senanayake is "shocked" that a bird would single her out.

"You were a threat to its babies!" explains Yip.

But Senanayake defends her actions. "I wasn't climbing the tree! I wasn't even near the tree!"

Down the block at Tully's Coffee, Manager Tim Piper has heard lots of pa-

trons talking about these close encounters of the pecking kind.

Piper relates how one customer "came in with her hand on her head. I asked her if something was wrong, and when she took her hand from her head, there was blood on her hand." After the customer got her coffee and headed for the door, "a dark bird landed on the doormat, and the woman froze, saying, 'That's the one that attacked me.'"

One of Piper's employees has also become a frequent target of the aggressive birds. "She wears a knit cap, and they just swoop down and pull the hat right off of her head."

One group that is acutely aware of the threat presented by urban wildlife is the U.S. Postal Service. Letter-carrier Ana Valladares, who delivers the mail to the homes and shops along 24th Street, wears

a white woven safari hat that blocks both the sun and the birds. "I was attacked by a bird a couple of years ago, over by Spinelli's [now Tully's], when I wasn't wearing my hat," Valladares says. Noting what may be a gap in the post office's training regimen, she laughs, "We worry about the dogs, but never about the birds."

Moms May 'Chill Out'

Carl Friedman, director of the city's Animal Care and Control Department, says his agency receives between 50 and 75 calls a year about birds attacking people who come near their nests. The chief suspects are starlings and blackbirds, he says.

"Each year, we get a bevy of complaints around the first week of June. It tapers off a little, and then a second batch of complaints comes in a couple of weeks later."

This lull in complaints roughly

matches the nesting cycle of the birds: The eggs hatch about 10 days after they have been laid, and about 10 days after hatching, the babies start to leave the nest. During this vulnerable three-week period, the parents tend to be very protective of their brood.

Following the recent incidents on 24th Street, Friedman was called in by Bevan Dufty, who is the former director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services and a current candidate for supervisor from District 8. Dufty was present at the Noe Valley Merchants meeting when Officer Lombardo brought up the May bird attacks. In the interest of aiding his would-be constituents, Dufty contacted Friedman to see if some course of action would be appropriate. Dufty and Friedman agreed, however, that it was best to just wait out this natural cycle of animal life. "Once the babies fly the coop, so to speak, the moms tend to chill out," explains Dufty.

As for Officer Lombardo, in the absence of a chargeable crime, she has let the birds go with a warning.

"I'll keep my eye on the problem," she declares, noting that she is most concerned about any attacks that might occur against small children. "But you can't blame a momma for being protective of her babies." □



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POLICE BEAT

Put a Lock on It

The following crime summaries were culled from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside police stations during the month of May 2002.

Hot Prowl Burglary: 3:04 a.m. on Saturday, May 18; 300 block of Duncan Street

Burglary of a Residence Under Construction: Between 4 p.m. on Friday, May 3, and 10 a.m. on Sunday, May 5; 300 block of Duncan Street

Two break-ins occurred at the same house within a two-week period in May.

On the morning of Sunday, May 5, the owners of a home under construction in the 300 block of Duncan Street near Sanchez went into their downstairs basement room to use their computer, only to find the equipment missing. Also missing were a color printer, digital camera, scanner, and a CD case containing \$500 in classical music CDs. The owners pointed out that the basement had two side-access doors, one of which did not lock.

Due to lack of physical evidence in the area where the computer and other equipment were located, police did not contact Crime Scene Investigations. Police noted that the rear side door was the likely point of entry.

Two weeks later, on Saturday, May 18, at around 3 a.m., the couple were asleep in their bedroom when the wife was awakened by someone near the bed. She

thought it was her husband until she felt him still lying next to her. Twice she asked the intruder what he wanted, and both times he responded, "Just looking." The wife then grabbed the intruder's jacket, and a struggle ensued. The intruder pulled away and ran out of the bedroom into the hallway and out the front door. The wife saw the intruder run west on Duncan, then south on Sanchez. She then called police, who responded to the scene within minutes but were unable to locate the suspect.

The wife told police that her bedroom was too dark for her to see the intruder clearly, but that he was about 5'5" and wearing a dark jacket and dark baggy pants. She also told police that the front door of the home might have been left unlocked by mistake. The woman's husband slept through most of the incident and awoke to see a shadow running out of the bedroom. The woman was not aware of anything missing from the home.

The case has been assigned to the San Francisco Police Department's Burglary Division.

Malicious Mischief/Graffiti: Between 5 p.m. on Friday, May 3, and 7 a.m. on Monday, May 6; 500 block of Elizabeth Street

At 7 a.m. on Monday, May 6, a carpenter who had been working on a home under construction in the 500 block of Elizabeth Street near Castro returned to the site after a weekend off, to find a large multicolored flannel sheet, spray-painted with the words "Monument of Greed," hanging from the second-floor scaffolding. The carpenter removed it and later showed it to the owners of the home, who asked that he call the police. As of press time, no suspects had been identified.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Car Plows Into 24th Street Sushi Bar

Fusai Ponne, the 77-year-old proprietor of Matsuya Restaurant at 3856 24th Street, says she was "shocked" when police came to her home on the evening of May 26 to tell her a woman driving a Honda Prelude had rammed into her restaurant. The car crashed through the storefront's plate-glass window and destroyed several tables and chairs inside the restaurant, which has been a 24th Street fixture for more than 25 years.

"I just felt lucky that we were closed, so no one was inside the restaurant," Ponne told the Voice. "We're so lucky that no one on the sidewalk got hurt either. There are so many people and kids and dogs that walk by. We're all just so lucky."

Ponne, who has kept the restaurant closed since the Memorial Day-weekend accident, is awaiting a settlement from her own insurance company and the driver's insurance company so she can begin making repairs, which she believes will "cost thousands of dollars." She hopes to reopen in early July.

In addition to damaging the building façade and interior, the accident caused her to lose a large amount of fresh fish and other food intended for Matsuya's sushi customers. Most of it spoiled within a week of the crash, Ponne said.

She also thanked her customers and 24th Street neighbors for their understanding. "We appreciate your patience and hope to be open again very soon."

Driver Saw a Parking Spot

According to the accident report, the 39-year-old driver of the red 1985 Prelude told police that she was driving down 24th Street on Sunday, May 26, at about 5:30 p.m., when she suddenly felt faint. She pulled into a red zone on 24th Street near Vicksburg to rest. A few minutes later, she saw a legal parking space in front of her car open up. Thinking she would pull into the spot, she turned on her engine and started to move her car forward. But, she told police, the accelera-

tor pedal malfunctioned, making her car speed up and over the curb. She said she tried to apply the brakes, but they failed to work, so she steered into the Matsuya storefront to avoid hitting pedestrians on the sidewalk.

Witnesses told police that the driver appeared to be struggling with the steering wheel as she drove into the storefront.

The driver complained of neck and back injuries and was removed from the car by paramedics, placed on a stretcher, and taken to San Francisco General Hospital.

Police cited the driver for operating a vehicle in an unsafe manner.

Like Fusai Ponne, Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo, who was the first police officer on the scene, was relieved that no one was hurt. "I'm really grateful that there weren't people walking by or inside the restaurant, because the situation could have ended up so much worse," Lombardo said. "I've seen accidents like this happen over and over. We all really need to pay attention and be very careful when we drive."

—Kathy Dalle-Molle



Fortunately, Matsuya Restaurant was closed on the afternoon of May 26, when a woman driving a red Honda Prelude crashed into the 24th Street storefront. Photo by Karal Barske



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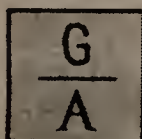
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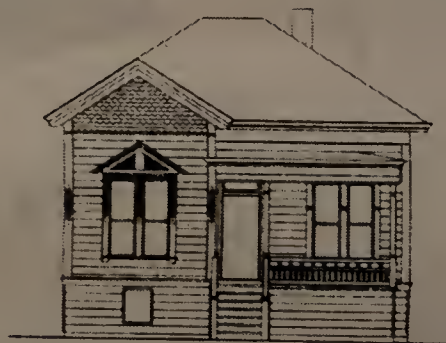
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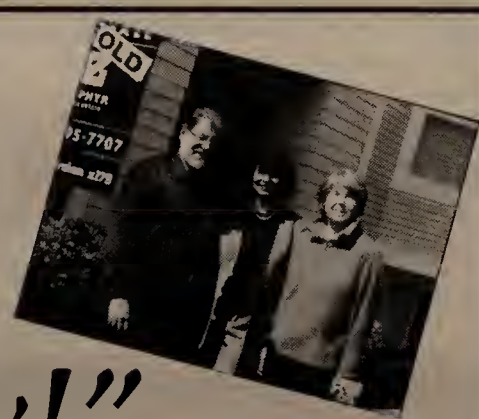
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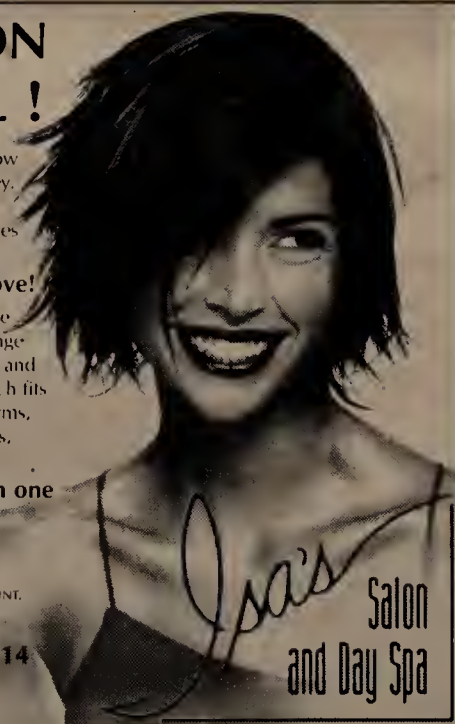
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POLICE BEAT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Hot Prowl Burglary: 2 a.m. on Monday, May 13; 200 block of 30th Street

A woman living in an apartment in the 200 block of 30th Street near Dolores was awakened around 2 a.m. on Monday, May 13, when she heard sounds coming from her bedroom window next to the fire escape. She spotted a male, age 25 or 26, 5'8", and wearing a green shirt, open the window and crawl into her apartment. Next he jumped over her bed, which sits beneath the window, and ran toward the front door.

The woman did not call 911, she said, because her phone was on the other side of the room and she wasn't sure if the suspect was still in the apartment. After several minutes, she got out of bed and ran to another window looking out onto 30th Street. As she began yelling for help, she noticed the suspect running east on 30th Street.

The woman did not report the incident to police until the afternoon of May 13.

Upon arrival at her apartment, a police officer checked the window the suspect had entered and found there was no lock and that the suspect had used no forced entry to open the window. The officer then contacted the manager of the building to ask that a lock be placed on the window. The officer also requested that Crime Scene Investigations come to the apartment for further investigation.

The case has been assigned to the SFPD's Burglary Division.

Possession of an Air Gun: 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19; 800 block of Elizabeth Street

At 6:30 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, police were called to a home in the 800 block of Elizabeth Street near Hoffman to investigate two boys allegedly target shooting with an air gun in their backyard. The boys admitted they were using the air gun, and their father, who was home at the time, said he was aware of the target shooting, but "didn't know there was anything wrong with that."

Police advised the boys and their father that it is illegal to possess air guns in San Francisco, and the father gave the officers the gun. Because the boys had no criminal record and were under parental supervision, police admonished them in lieu of a citation.

The air gun was booked into evidence at Mission Station.

Mental Health Detention: 9:20 a.m. on Thursday, May 23; 1000 block of Noe Street

As a group of children were walking along Noe Street near Clipper on their way to school on the morning of Thursday, May 23, they noticed a 47-year-old man masturbating while sitting on a couch on the sidewalk.

When police arrived on the scene, they recognized the man from previous incidents. The man, who has a history of mental illness, appeared to be unaware of his surroundings and was looking from side to side as if he thought people were watching him. He allegedly told police, "They are trying to get me. The bank robbers are trying to get me."

Based on this and previous incidents, police determined that the man was unable to care for himself and that he might be a danger to himself and others. They transported him to San Francisco General Hospital for evaluation and treatment.



The Voice thanks Mission Police Officer Lorraine Lombardo, as well as Ingleside Sergeant Mikail Ali and Officer Mike Smith, for providing the incident reports for this month's Police Beat. The reports were summarized by Kathy Dalle-Molle.

How to Contact the SFPD

Noe Valley straddles two San Francisco police districts—Mission and Ingleside—each with its own turf. Mission police cover the northern half of Noe Valley, from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street. Ingleside police have jurisdiction over the southern half of Noe Valley, from Cesar Chavez Street to Glen Park.

Those residents and merchants who live and work within the Mission Police District can report recurring crime or safety problems by phoning the station at 558-5400. They may also send e-mail to Captain Greg Corrales at gregory_corrales@ci.sf.ca.us, or attend police-community meetings held the last Tuesday of the month. The next meeting will be Tuesday, July 30, at 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street. (To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call the nontraceable hotline at 558-5452.)

Residents and merchants in "outer" Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez—can contact Ingleside Station by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing Captain Kevin Dillon at kevin_dillon@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside police-community meetings take place the third Tuesday of the month at Ingleside Station, 1 Sergeant John Young Lane, near the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. The next meeting will be held Tuesday, July 23, at 7 p.m.

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It's the Wooing Season

By Corrie M. Anders

Home sellers got a chance to play "ElimiDate" in May and early June, as infatuated buyers continued to engage in bidding contests for the best properties in Noe Valley. The final June tally won't be available until later this summer. But the May lovefest posted the largest number of home sales in three years.

Buyers and sellers got together on 27 detached homes and condominiums, according to data supplied to the *Voice* by Zephyr Real Estate on 24th Street. That number topped the December 1999 previous high of 26 sales.

Zephyr manager Randall Kostick says he is not surprised to see "brisk" activity in May and June, since it reflects sales of homes that hit the real estate market in March and April. "That's the beginning of spring" — a season that traditionally puts people in the home-buying mood, he says. However, this spring's home buyers were particularly lusty, often paying above the seller's asking price.

Noe Valley sales also recorded an oddity for the month of May: a condo sold at

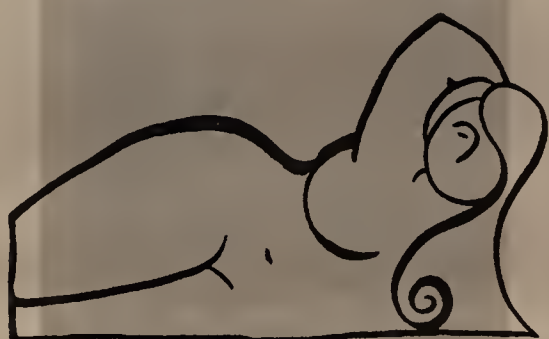
a higher price than the most expensive detached home. The three-bedroom, 2½-bath condo, in the 500 block of Duncan Street, sold for \$1,575,000. The most expensive detached home, a four-bedroom, 3½-bath home in the 3600 block of 22nd Street, exchanged hands for \$1,520,000.

Meanwhile, sales of flats and apartment buildings continued a spring-long rebound. Five rental properties closed escrow during May, including a \$1,425,000 six-unit building in the 500 block of 30th Street.

Coming after a stagnant period, the increase in apartment sales may be due to home buyers purchasing flats as a less expensive alternative to single-family homes. The soft rental market may also be inducing landlords to get out of the business.

"If they have a vacant unit and they can't seem to rent it, it may be an opportune time to sell the whole building," says Kostick.

Noe Valley rents have dropped considerably since the dot-com peak of 2000. In the first quarter of this year, for example, rents for one-bedroom apartments were 21 percent cheaper than a year earlier, while two-bedroom apartments cost nearly 12 percent less. □



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Noe Valley Home Sales*

Total Sales		Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
May 02	13	\$635,000	\$1,520,000	\$1,022,153	35	109%
April 02	12	\$559,000	\$1,380,000	\$863,425	15	112%
May 01	14	\$540,000	\$2,050,000	\$939,750	29	101%
Condominiums						
May 02	14	\$375,000	\$1,575,000	\$722,714	42	103%
April 02	10	\$435,000	\$850,000	\$651,100	33	104%
May 01	8	\$339,000	\$925,000	\$552,375	22	104%
2 to 4 unit buildings						
May 02	4	\$750,000	\$900,000	\$826,500	24	113%
April 02	7	\$480,000	\$1,350,000	\$921,428	42	102%
May 01	4	\$730,000	\$1,100,000	\$900,625	39	100%
5+ unit buildings						
May 02	1	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	\$1,425,000	139	97%
April 02	0	—	—	—	—	—
May 01	1	\$940,000	\$940,000	\$940,000	27	95%

*Information provided to the *Noe Valley Voice* courtesy of Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyr-re.com) and based on all Noe Valley home sales (closings) recorded during month. "Noe Valley" in this survey was defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets.

NVV 7/02

Noe Valley Rents*

Apartment Size	Average Rents (Jan. - March 2002)	Average Rents a Year Ago (Jan. - March 2001)	% Increase (+) or Decrease (-)
Studio	\$ 1,133 / mo.	\$ 1,313 / mo.	-13.7%
1 bedroom	1,649 / mo.	2,088 / mo.	-21.0%
2 bedrooms	2,303 / mo.	2,604 / mo.	-11.6%
3 or more bedrooms	2,997 / mo.	3,536 / mo.	-15.2%

* Source: Rent Tech, Inc. (www.renttech.com)

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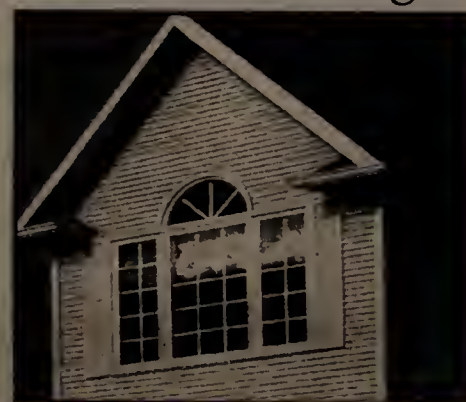
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Go Climb a Street. This block of 22nd Street between Vicksburg and Church is among two entered in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as being the steepest with a gradient of 31.5 percent, or a rise of one foot for every 3.17 feet. The other is Filbert Street. Photo by Leo Holub

Sister Immaculée Walsh—a Teacher for More Than 60 Years

Longtime St. Paul High School educator Sister Immaculée Walsh, BVM, died June 2 at Marian Hall in Dubuque, Iowa. She was 93.

Sister Immaculée taught English and French at St. Paul's on 29th Street for 37 years—from 1928 to 1935, 1944 to 1947, and 1964 to 1991. In retirement, she lived at the St. Paul High School Convent from 1991 to 1996. Later, she moved to the BVM Motherhouse convent in Dubuque.

She was born on July 14, 1908, in Chicago, Ill., to John and Mary Hungeling Walsh. The youngest of five daughters, Irene Walsh graduated from Immaculata High School before entering the BVM congregation in 1926. She professed first vows in 1928 and final vows six years later, at the age of 26.

Sister Lynn Lester, who taught alongside Sister Immaculée at St. Paul High School, remembers her close friend as an “elegant, intelligent, refined, wise, and caring woman...[who] had an intense interest in life and so enjoyed the company of others. She loved to read, and in her imagination visited so many places all around the world. She loved to study maps and atlases. Although she never drove, there was no one who knew the streets of San Francisco better than Immaculée!”

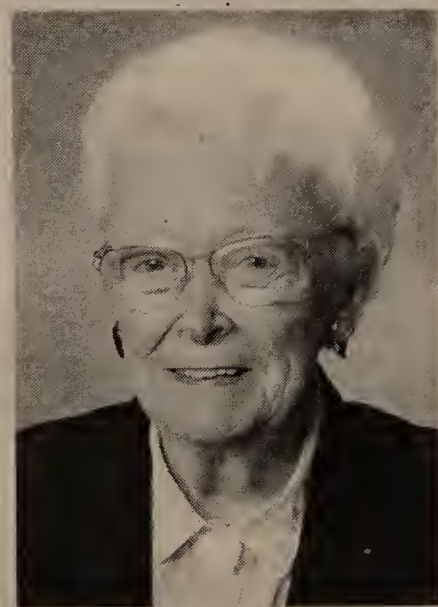
Sister Immaculée taught at St. Paul's over a span of 63 years. Off and on during that time, she also taught high school in Colorado, Iowa, and Illinois. But according to Sister Lynn, her heart forever remained in San Francisco. “To know and love Immaculée, you also had to know and love the San Francisco 49ers!”

Her students were expected to give Sis-

ter Immaculée their undivided attention in class, noted Sister Lynn. But “rules and regulations were not a part of her lexicon. Instead, Immaculée lived her life directed by an inner wisdom, nurtured by a life of discipline and deep faith in the Lord. She always said, ‘Breathe deeply, use your inner resources, and you will be fine.’”

Sister Immaculée's parents and her sisters Veronica Martin, Margaret Walsh, Alice Walsh, and Marion Harding preceded her in death. She is survived by nieces, a nephew, and the Sisters of Charity nuns with whom she shared her life for 76 years.

Her funeral liturgy was celebrated June 5 in the Marian Hall chapel. Burial took place at Mount Carmel Cemetery in Iowa. Memorials in Sister Immaculée's name may be sent to the BVM Retirement Fund, in care of the Sisters of Charity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, 1100 Carmel Drive, Dubuque, IA 52003. □



Sister Immaculée Walsh, who taught English and French at St. Paul's High School, died June 2 at the age of 93.

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This 'n' That

By Laura McHale Holland

In June, a new rag joined the stacks at our neighborhood's many print-friendly businesses. It's the inaugural issue of the *San Francisco Reader*, a free monthly arts magazine founded by Church Street resident Jeff Troiano, who calls himself "a publishing company in a box." A face painted by Mission District artist Dave Warnke adorns the cover. Inside is an array of poetry, fiction, profiles, artist interviews, photographs, comics—even a crossword puzzle—with a smattering of advertising.

"San Francisco is full of creative individuals in search of outlets for their work," says Troiano. "We're different from typical weeklies and monthlies in that we focus on the work itself rather than on reviews, previews, and extensive calendar listings. And we're providing the magazine free of charge, in mass quantities. Most literary journals have very limited readerships. We're trying to bring literary material to the typical San Franciscan who probably won't find this work otherwise."

The 32-page magazine's first 20,000 copies were distributed throughout San Francisco, in the East Bay and Marin, and as far away as Eugene, Ore.

"I'd love to see the magazine at more than 100 pages a month, maybe in full color. I'd also like to be making a decent living from publishing," Troiano says.

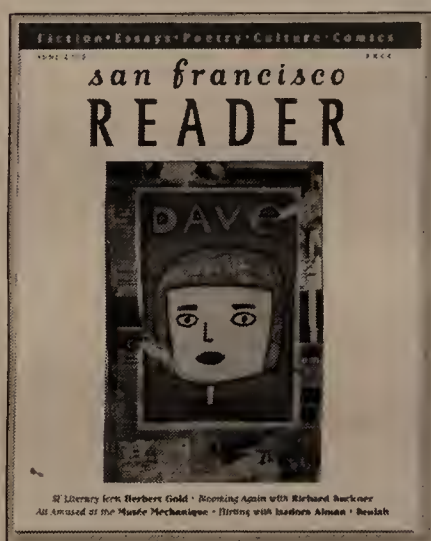
Right now, a severance check from his former technical editing job is helping to keep the enterprise afloat. "I bought some charms at [La Sirena] Botanica on Church Street to assist me with ad sales. That helped a lot—along with begging, plead-

ing, and plying potential advertisers with alcohol."

The *Reader* includes the work of previously unpublished writers, as well as that of San Francisco's most renowned voices. (Award-winning poet Kim Addonizio, novelist/essayist Herbert Gold, and musician Richard Buckner were among the accomplished artists featured in June.) "It will be quite equal-opportunity," says Troiano.

Lovebirds S.A. Kushinka and Mike Underhill didn't use charms to resolve a dilemma concerning the sale of the Axford House on 25th Street, but the supernatural did play a role. (The couple met when Underhill sold Kushinka the house, and they shared the story of their romance in this column in March. Shortly after that, a "For Sale" sign appeared on the landmark's wrought-iron fence.)

Here's an update from Kushinka: "We decided to sell Axford House so that I could take a less stressful, nonprofit job



Church Street resident Jeff Troiano has launched a new literary magazine called the *San Francisco Reader*.

and spend more time with my daughter and new husband without undue financial strain. Despite a fair market price and probably fifteen hundred people going through the house, there were no offers.

"We consulted a spiritualist (after a feng shui consultant felt the presence of some friendly but meddling energy in the house), who told us that the gracious and very powerful mother spirit of the house feels we are not ready to leave the nest yet. She has our best interests at heart apparently," Kushinka went on, "and wants us to stay a while longer until we're clearer about our long-term plans and more established in our marriage."

"So, Axford House is off the market, and we're moving back in. Can't argue with Mom, I guess."

Nina Youkelson, who has been the heart and soul of the Noe Valley Cooperative Nursery School for over 30 years, didn't have a choice about leaving the residence on 26th Street that she had rented for seven years. The building was sold, and the new owners wanted to move in. Her plight was publicized in Johann Zimmer's letter to the editor in the June *Voice*. The good news is Youkelson has been spared a move out of the city.

"I'd like to thank people for their concern, their help, and consideration. So many people came up to me on the street and said they'd read about my eviction and that they'd keep an eye out for me," Youkelson says. "I did find a place. But it's \$700 more a month for a third less space, and it's not in Noe Valley. I remember when this was a blue-collar, working-class neighborhood. It's certainly not that anymore. I couldn't afford a place here, but my new home is not far away, and I still work in the neighborhood."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 19



She Had a Ball

Noe Valley Beat Officer Lorraine Lombardo and her date, Carlos Chacon, decided to get all gussied up for the Police Officers' Ball, the first held in San Francisco in almost 40 years. More than 1,000 people attended the event, which took place May 18 at the Embarcadero Hyatt Regency Hotel.

For all you Noe Valley fashionistas, Lombardo's floor-length, halter-necked hot pink satin gown was created by local designer Jessica McClintock and purchased at Designers' Club at 24th and Sanchez streets. To accessorize the dress, Lombardo wore her grandmother's diamond earrings and a faux "heart of the sea" necklace like the one in the movie *Titanic*.

Lombardo says she first admired the dress while making her Noe Valley rounds. "I saw the dress hanging in the [Designers' Club] window, and it looked so lovely that I just had to have it, but there wasn't one in my size, so they special-ordered it for me. They were really helpful and great to deal with."

As for the ball, "I had a fantastic time!" □

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In answer to this issue, industry insiders have prepared a free special report entitled "6 Inside Strategies to Avoid Trade-Up Mistakes".

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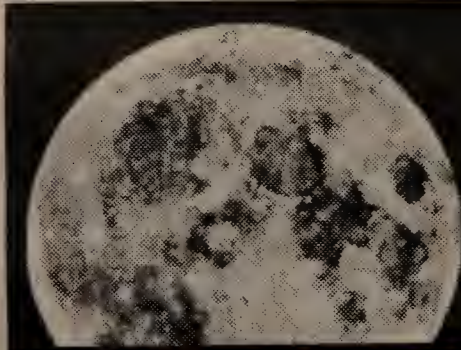
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Ruth Asawa's Circle Is Complete

By Kathy Dalle-Molle

The Oakland Museum of California will showcase the life's work of one of Noe Valley's most celebrated artists, Ruth Asawa, in a summer-long exhibition titled "Ruth Asawa: Completing the Circle."

Asawa, 76, is well-known in San Francisco for her intricate bronze sculptures, such as the Mermaid Fountain at Ghirardelli Square (1968) and the Hyatt Fountain at Union Square (1973). Asawa's works are also on display in the Guggenheim Museum, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. Her more recent commissions include the Japanese American Internment Memorial Sculpture, unveiled in San Jose in 1994.

The Oakland show, which runs through Sept. 22, will feature 75 sculptures—in crochet, tied wire, and cast metal and concrete—along with a number of Asawa's drawings, masks, and models of public art, created over a 40-year span.

"It's a very large show," says Asawa. "At first, I was surprised that the museum wanted to do it, but I'm very happy that they decided to."

The title of the show, she says, comes from her desire to "complete the circle"—to learn something, apply it, and then pass it on to someone else so it will not be forgotten.

To that end, a second part of the exhibit documents Asawa's work in developing arts programs for students in San Francisco public schools. In 1968, after observing the lack of meaningful art instruction at Noe Valley's Alvarado School, Asawa, together with art historian Sally Woodbridge, created the Alvarado Arts Workshop to bring practicing artists into the schools. The program expanded over time to include 50 San Francisco schools.

A third part of the show introduces the work of Asawa's six children and 10 grandchildren. Her children are all residents of Noe Valley and live within walking distance of the Castro Street home Asawa shares with her husband of 53 years, architect Albert Lanier. Included in the Oakland exhibit will be handcrafted balsa surfboards by son Xavier Lanier; photography by grandchildren Hudson Lanier and Xavier Jr.; origami by granddaughter Lilli Lanier; and ceramics by son Paul Lanier, who is currently an artist-in-residence at Alvarado.

Asawa says she suggested to the museum that her children's work be part of the show. "They make things that interest me," she says, "so I thought it would be of interest to others as well. They've

followed their own artistic path with their work. They haven't followed me at all."

The museum also will hold a series of special events tied to the exhibit. On July 14 at 2 p.m., Asawa will give a talk about her work and on how to involve children and adults in public art projects. From noon to 4 p.m. on Aug. 18, Asawa, her daughter Aiko Cuneo, and granddaughter Lilli will lead an origami workshop called "Tied, Folded, Shared."

On Saturdays and Sundays throughout the summer, the museum will conduct afternoon "drop-in wireworks," where museum artists will teach ways to twist, tie, and crochet in the style of Asawa.

Asawa says she also hopes to arrange a showing of *Each One Teach One: The Alvarado School Art Program*, a documentary by Asawa and award-winning filmmaker Valerie Soe.

The Oakland Museum is located at Oak and 10th streets in Oakland, one block from the Lake Merritt BART Station. Hours are Wednesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. On the first Friday of the month, the museum is open until 9 p.m.

Admission is \$6 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$4 for students. Children under 6 are admitted free. (The second Sunday of the month is a free day for everyone.) For more information, phone 510-238-2200 or visit the museum's web site at www.museumca.org. □



Noe Valley artist Ruth Asawa is famous for her wire sculptures, several of which will be on display at a retrospective of her work at the Oakland Museum this summer.

Photo by M. Lee Fatherree



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This 'n' That

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

Someone who will no longer be working in the neighborhood is **Phyllis Matsuno**, principal of Alvarado Elementary School since 1996. She's leaving to make way for a new principal this fall. Matsuno did such a commendable job over the past six years that Supervisor Mark Leno had the city declare May 30 Phyllis Matsuno Day. Watch for more details about Matsuno and her replacement at Alvarado, **David Weiner**, in this paper's September issue.

Perhaps one day **Flannery Virginia Strain** will join the Alvarado Elementary School's student body and reap the benefits of Matsuno's hard work. So far she's learned sign language for "milk" and "bath," but she doesn't yet speak English. Born at her Noe Street home to parents **Susan Gladwin** and **Matt Strain** on April 6, 2001, she's more interested in comparing bellybuttons, doing poses that resemble yoga's downward-facing dog, and helping Mom wipe down her high-chair, than she is in learning her ABCs.

"We originally were going to have our



Noe Valley native Flannery Virginia Strain was born April 6, 2001, in the home of her Dad and Mom, Matt Strain and Susan Gladwin.

baby in a hospital, but midway through the pregnancy we learned a home birth was possible, since a friend had her baby at home. The idea of letting my body do what it was designed to do, with minimal interference but optimized backup support, really appealed to us. We did a lot of research and used a wonderful midwife," says Gladwin. "With all the pre-screening and care that midwives provide, we felt confident that we were safe and that



Photos by Tami DeSellier

things would work out fine, even if we had to go to the hospital.

"Flannery came out so small, wet, and perfect," Gladwin says. "Once everyone was cleaned, wrapped up, and checked out, and pizza was eaten, the midwives went home, and there were the three of us, tucked into bed. We gazed at her all night, in awe."

Named Virginia to honor Gladwin's aunt and Flannery because her parents

just like the name, the youngster has many admirers. "Sometimes we call her the Noe Lama since she was born on Noe Street and seems to know everyone up and down 24th Street. She has always been a people baby and will smile and wave at people until they notice her little presence."

Flannery's parents, who eloped on a vacation in Bali, hope their daughter will have an open and accepting attitude toward whatever comes along in life. "I hope she can continue to connect with the world in a loving but increasingly savvy manner," says Gladwin.

Let's hope the same for all of us as the summer unfolds. Please send us news of your milestones. We want to know about your sprightly babies, graduations and academic honors, engagements, weddings, professional awards, book publishing parties, art show openings, literary salons, and rollicking summer high jinks.


E-mail leads to thisnthat@noevalleyvoice.com, mail them to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or leave a phone message at 415-821-3324. Again, we eagerly await your news.

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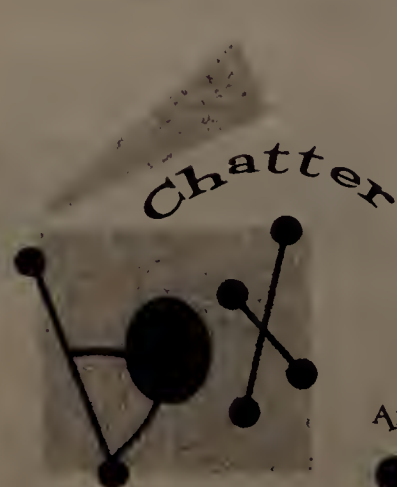
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All I Really Need to Know I Learned in My Bookstore

By Diane Kudisch

I have owned the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore on 24th Street for a little over a year. Owning a bookstore had been a dream of mine for many years, and the dream finally came true last April. A few weeks ago, I was talking to a friend about the highs and lows of bookstore ownership, and he asked me what, if anything, I had learned. As I started reeling off my list, he laughed and suggested that I write it down. Well, here's what I came up with:

Reflections After a Year of Tending a 26-Year-Old San Francisco Bookstore

☞ Don't panic between 11 and 2 in the afternoon if only a few folks have shown up. Relax. The store is an afternoon store, and if you have books, they will come. Anyway, there's always Goodwill Industries.

☞ Regardless of how large the "San Francisco Mystery Books" sign is (and we have a BRAND NEW SIGN—have you seen it?), how colorful it is, or how much it cost, inevitably someone will

walk in and ask if you have any books on breastfeeding, or on the history of Belgium. My favorite: "Is this a spiritual bookstore?" Actually it is, sort of...

☞ How exciting it is to introduce customers to new authors. I'm amazed at the satisfaction I get from my customers' enthusiasm.

☞ Publishers are people too, aren't they? Bruce Taylor, former owner of the bookstore, always smiled vaguely when I asked him about his dealings with publishers. Now I know why.

☞ Always make friends with folks in the various credit departments of publishing companies.

☞ If you write a mystery set in Venice, it will sell.

☞ Authors are just as insecure as bookstore owners. I recently spoke to a local author who was coming to the store for a signing. I was complaining about the lack of attendance at our signings. She laughed and said it works both ways: The bookstore owners worry that the authors will think no one ever comes into the store. The authors worry that the booksellers will think that no one ever buys their books!

☞ Recycle those Safeway bags. Don't just depend on the kindness of others, i.e., loyal customers who bring in their own plastic bags (or backpacks).

☞ Publishers' catalogs breed overnight.

☞ Don't trust anyone who insists that Stephen King is a mystery writer.

☞ After I've been sitting in the near dark for most of an evening (I sound like a Jewish mother, don't I?), someone will always come in at five minutes before closing and wander around for 20 minutes and then walk out having bought nothing but having said, "This

is an incredible bookstore!"

☞ You can never have enough Donna Leon books. They take place in Venice.

☞ Gary McDonald is usually right, but I'll never tell him that. He's been the manager since I bought the store, and I couldn't have done it without him. But I'll never tell him that either.

☞ Noe Valley is a great place to visit, but I wouldn't want to park here.

☞ How depressing it is when the neighborhood eating establishments recognize your voice when you call in an order.

☞ My funniest title: *Mounted in San Francisco*.

☞ The most important thing I've learned this year is that the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore could not have been located in a better neighborhood than Noe Valley. The people here have been incredibly supportive and encouraging, and because of that, the store is flourishing. Thank you—and thanks for the plastic bags! ☐

If you'd like to be on the mailing list for book signings and other events, call 282-7444 or e-mail Diane Kudisch at sfmysterybooks@aol.com. You can also check out the store's web site at www.sfmysterybooks.com.

Let Bylines Be Bylines

The Noe Valley Voice would like to publish your reflections on life in and around the neighborhood. Mail manuscripts to Bylines, Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; or e-mail your essay to bylines@noevalleyvoice.com. Please include your name, address, and phone number.

THE SIGNING MYSTERY (not a Stephen King novel)

I still haven't learned the whys and wherefores of holding a successful signing. We have wonderful authors coming in, and they are always anxious to meet their fans and the bookstore staff, and to talk about their books. But sometimes hardly anyone shows up. *What to do?! Please clue me in, Noe Valleyans* (sfmysterybooks@aol.com).

Meanwhile, take a look at this fabulous lineup for July. I'd be thrilled if you'd drop by, even if it's just to say hello. (The San Francisco Mystery Bookstore is located at 4175 24th Street, between Castro and Diamond.)

—Diane Kudisch

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2 P.M.

Berkeley resident **Ayelet Waldman** will sign copies of *A Playdate with Death*, the third in her "mommy-track mysteries," a funny series set in Los Angeles.

FRIDAY, JULY 19, 5 P.M.

Michael McGarrity signs *The Big Gamble*, a thriller featuring his favorite sleuth, Santa Fe Police Chief Kevin Kerney.

SATURDAY, JULY 20, 2 P.M.

Learn about mystery and feng shui on July 20, when **Denise Osborne** stops by to sign the second in her *Salome Waterhouse* series.

SUNDAY, JULY 21, 3 P.M.

G.M. Ford, a writer from Seattle, will sign his second "Renegade Reporter" Frank Corso mystery, *Black River*. Joining him will be San Francisco author **Lynne Murray**, who will sign her third Josephine Fuller mystery, *A Ton of Trouble*.



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SHORT TAKES

The New Face of Feminism

Ladyfest Bay Area 2002 is taking place in the Mission July 24 through 28. The festival features musical acts, film and video screenings, visual art, spoken-word performances, and nearly 50 workshops—all created by women and transgender people. "We are thrilled to present the Bay Area with an incredible compilation of women's art, music, and activism," says Kyla Schuller, one of the event's producers.

Some of the many highlights include musical acts Bratmobile, The Donnas, and The Gossip; slam poet Alix Olson; a retrospective screening of the six-year-old MadCat Women's International Film Festival, curated by Festival Director Ariella Ben Dov; artwork by Trina Robbins and Roberta Gregory; a workshop by Marilyn Wann "which explores the fabulous side of being fat"; and a workshop on independent publishing led by Lisa Jervis and Carla DeSantis.

Until July 1, five-day passes to the event are \$70 to \$90; three-day passes are \$55. After that, prices go up by \$10. Venues include the Victoria Theater, Artists' Television Access, the LGBT Center, Pond Gallery, and Mission High School. For venue locations, schedule of events, and to purchase passes, visit www.ladyfestbayarea.org. For more information call 510-535-1041.

They Got Game

Are you a player? Someone who competes with gusto and plays with grace—win or lose? Then mark your calendar for Sunday evening, Aug. 31, from 7 to 10 p.m. You're invited to the first-ever Games Night at the Noe Valley Ministry.

The event will consist of a variety of games played simultaneously in small groups. Each player will have a chance to play several different games. Challenges will include classics such as Scrabble, charades, and Pictionary, along with some newer games. This is a chance to meet some neighbors, make new friends, and indulge both your competitive and clever sides.

Refreshments will be served, and a \$5 optional donation will be requested at the door. For more information, call 285-7706 or 282-2317.

Silence Is Electric

History will come to life for two days Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, during the San Francisco Silent Film Festival at the Castro Theater. Now in its seventh year, the gala will showcase archival silent films with live musical accompaniment. Several special guests will also appear. "Seeing a silent film with a live audience and live accompaniment is an electric experience. The fact that there is no soundtrack is beneficial in a way because it requires you to use your imagination and be more actively involved," says Stephen Salmons, one of the festival's founders.

The festival will include a centennial tribute to one of Hollywood's great directors, William Wyler, hosted by his family. His on-the-job training included numerous silent westerns, most of which do not survive. Actor Terence Stamp, who worked with Wyler on *The Collector*, will introduce Wyler's silent drama *Hell's Heroes* (1930). Noted author and historian Diana Serra Cary, who as a child actress portrayed a popular character named Baby Peggy, will introduce her film *Captain January* (1924). Silent comedian Harold Lloyd's daughter Gloria and granddaughter Suzanne will also be on hand to introduce his film *Girl Shy* (1924).

The festival will also present the world premiere revival screening of Lois Weber's *The Blot* (1921), a drama that examines life in a society that values a good education but pays its teachers low wages. Cecil B. DeMille's *Male and Female* (1919), starring movie diva Gloria Swanson, and *Shiraz* (1928), a silent film from India, are also among the festival's highlights. Musicians from Ali Akbar College of Music will accompany *Shiraz*. Accompanists for the other films will be Michael Mortilla on piano and Dennis James on the Castro's Wurlitzer organ.

Daytime shows are \$10; evening screenings are \$12. Children 12 and under are free. Advance tickets and discount passes can be purchased at the festival office, 833 Market Street, Suite 311. Tickets can also be purchased by phone at 478-2277 or online at www.tickets.com. During the festival, tickets will be available at the Castro Theater box office, 429 Castro Street (at Market Street). For a list of films and screening times, visit www.silentfilm.org or call 777-4908.

The Short Takes on this page were written by Laura McHale Holland.



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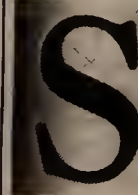
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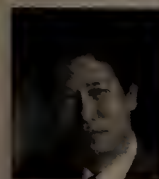
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The rebuild is now well underway, and many cable subscribers in San Francisco's Southern and Eastern neighborhoods are already enjoying the benefits of these new services.

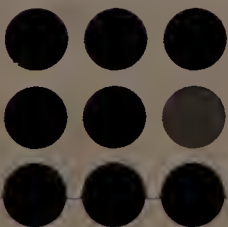
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CITY COLLEGE'S CASTRO/VALENCIA CAMPUS FALL 2002

Space is still available in many Fall Semester 2002 credit and non-credit courses starting August 19th at City College of San Francisco's Castro/Valencia Campus. Listed below is just a sampling of day, evening and weekend classes offered at 1220 Noe Street and 1800 Market Street. Credit courses are only \$11 per unit for all California residents. Noncredit courses are FREE.

SAMPLING OF FALL 2002 CREDIT COURSES

Course Title	CRN#	Days	Times	Location/Room
American Government	74673	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe TBA
Career Success/Life Planning	73556	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 117
Cosmic Evolution	74077	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Feature Writing	72986	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 304
French 1 (Beg.)	70071	MW	6:30-9 P.M.	1220 Noe 312
French 3B (Cont. Interm.)	74704	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 306
French 4 (Cont. Interm.)	75264	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 301
German (Practical)	73390	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 205
GLBT Comm. of Color in U.S.	74318	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 6
History/Homosexuality in Film	75249	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 110
Holistic Health Practices	70979	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 201
Improvisation for Actors	75484	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe AUD
Internet Journalism	75563	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Issues in Lesbian Relationships	75250	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 307
Italian 2B (Cont. Elem.)	75272	M	6-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 301
Japanese (Elem.)	72647	Sat	9:30-12:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 307
Jazz History	74197	Sat	9:30-12:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 234
Lesbian/Gay American History	70086	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 102
Lesbian/ Gay Culture & Society	70079	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Linguistic Anthropology (Intro)	70205	M	6:30-9:45 P.M.	1220 Noe 12
Men's Health Issues	74754	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 212
News Writing & Reporting	74632	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Poetry for the People	74856	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 308
Psychology/Sexual Minorities	75251	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 212
Queer TV: TV & Gay Identity	75510	M	6-9:15 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Reading and Composition	70068	M	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1220 Noe 310
Russian 1B (Elem.)	70105	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 312
Russian 2A (Cont. Elem.)	72674	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 201
Russian Culture	75271	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 203
Sex/Gender in Am. Society	70108	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 107
Small Business Ownership/Opn.	72717	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Spreadsheets/Business/Excel	75441	T	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Storytelling	74665	M	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 102
2D Animation for Multimedia	74860	TTh	3-6 P.M.	1800 Market 306
University Read/Composition	73292	TTh	10:30-12 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Univ. Read/Composition (Adv.)	70068	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 310
Vocal Production/Audition	75628	Th	6:30-9:30 p.m.	1220 Noe Aud
Women and Film	70460	Th	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 110
Women in the Arts	70091	W	6:30-9:30 P.M.	1220 Noe 307

SAMPLING OF FALL 2002 FREE NONCREDIT COURSES

American Sign Language I	81162	T	6:30-9 P.M.	1800 Market 304
Computers for Older Adults	83080	T	12-3 P.M.	1800 Market 306
ESL 5-8 (Intermediate)	83201	M-Th	6:30-9 P.M.	1220 Noe 1A
Internet for Older Adults	83082	W	1-4 P.M.	1800 Market 306
Understanding Changing Times	83070	S	1-3 P.M.	1800 Market 304

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SHORT TAKES

Kids Write Under Cover

It seems as though at least half the adult residents of Noe Valley are writers of some sort—journalists, poets, diary scribblers, or Internet editors. So it makes sense that the younger generation would want to put pen to paper, too. Cover to Cover Booksellers on 24th Street has found a way to encourage young bards with a weeklong summer writing class for teens 12 to 16.

The course will be taught by Janis Cooke Newman, a creative writing teacher, published author, and regular contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*. “Janis has done similar classes at Book Passage in Corte Madera, and she’s a great friend of the store,” says Cover to Cover co-owner Tracy Wynne. Together, the two hatched the idea to offer the teen class.

“We thought classes for kids would be the best for Noe Valley parents, and almost no one outside of schools offers writing classes for kids,” Newman says. “The focus of the class is to help them tap into their creativity. We write on different topics...and then they have the option of sharing what they’ve done.” The students record their work in hardbound notebooks, which they get to keep at the end of the class.

Wynne says she’s “pretty sure” the store will host another weeklong workshop in August. That class will be geared toward kids in grades 3 through 5.

After that, Wynne says, the sky is the limit. “We’re hoping to do this on a grander scale in the fall,” notes Newman. Wynne is also considering hosting an open mike and additional writing classes in the store’s upstairs space.

The teen writing course is scheduled for July 15 to 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. each day. The cost is \$175, and the class is limited to 12 students. Call the store at 282-8080 for more information.

—Erin O’Briant

Sound Unbound

Do you enjoy the ambiance of the acoustically blessed Noe Valley Ministry? On Friday, Aug. 9, the Joel Futterman/Ike Levin Group promises to use the venue to the fullest in a show dedicated to artistic freedom and pushing the boundaries of harmony, tonality, and rhythm.

The event celebrates the July release of the group’s CD *LifeLine*, on IML Records. It marks the third collaboration between pianist Joel Futterman and San Francisco-based reed player Ike Levin. On this CD, and in this performance, the

duo joins forces with cellist Kash Killion.

The concert will be Futterman’s first Bay Area performance. Based in Virginia, he has performed with notable jazz innovators across North America and Europe, including at such prominent festivals as the Tampere Jazz Festival in Finland and the Visions Festival in New York. Levin’s improvisational talents are rooted in the blues, bebop, and contemporary chamber music, and he is active in developing the Bay Area’s new music scene. Killion is a composer, cellist, and bassist who began his professional music career at age 10. He has more than a dozen recordings to his credit.

Showtime is 8:15 p.m.; admission is \$15. The Noe Valley Ministry is at 1021 Sanchez near 23rd. For more information, visit www.futtermanlevingroup.com.

—Laura McHale Holland

Satire in the Park

For a new perspective on our country’s response to Sept. 11, check out the San Francisco Mime Troupe’s new show, *Mr. Smith Goes to Obskuristan*. The play was written by theatrical monologist and filmmaker Josh Kornbluth, in collaboration with members of the Mime Troupe.

The show’s premiere will be July 4 at 2 p.m. in Dolores Park, and will inaugurate the theater collective’s 41st summer of playing in the parks. In this musical satire, the United States wants to show the world that it puts democracy before profits, so it sends Mr. Smith, a Sept. 11 fireman hero, to Obskuristan to help the small country hold its first-ever elections. When oil is discovered in Obskuristan, one of the country’s presidential candidates promises to keep the oil wealth at home, causing the U.S. administration to shift its priorities.

Kornbluth says he started to dream of running away to join the Mime Troupe in 1972, when his father took him to see a play in New York City during former President Nixon’s “Christmas bombing” of Vietnam.

“The tortured topics of Vietnam and the drug trade were not just brought vividly to life. They were dramatized with tremendous goofiness,” Kornbluth recalls.

Additional performances will be held throughout the Bay Area and Northern California through Sept. 1, including in Dolores Park on July 6 and 7 and Sept. 1 and 2; and in Glen Park July 27. All shows are free.

For a full schedule, visit www.sfmt.org or call 285-1717. (Note to city newcomers who may never have seen the Mime Troupe: The group does not do pantomime; “mime” refers to the word’s original meaning, “to mimic.” In fact, the actors orate, dance, and sing, and are backed up by a full band.)

—Laura McHale Holland

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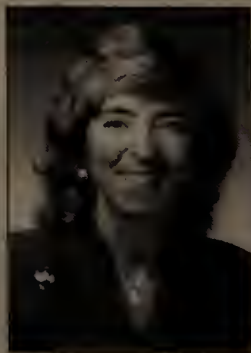
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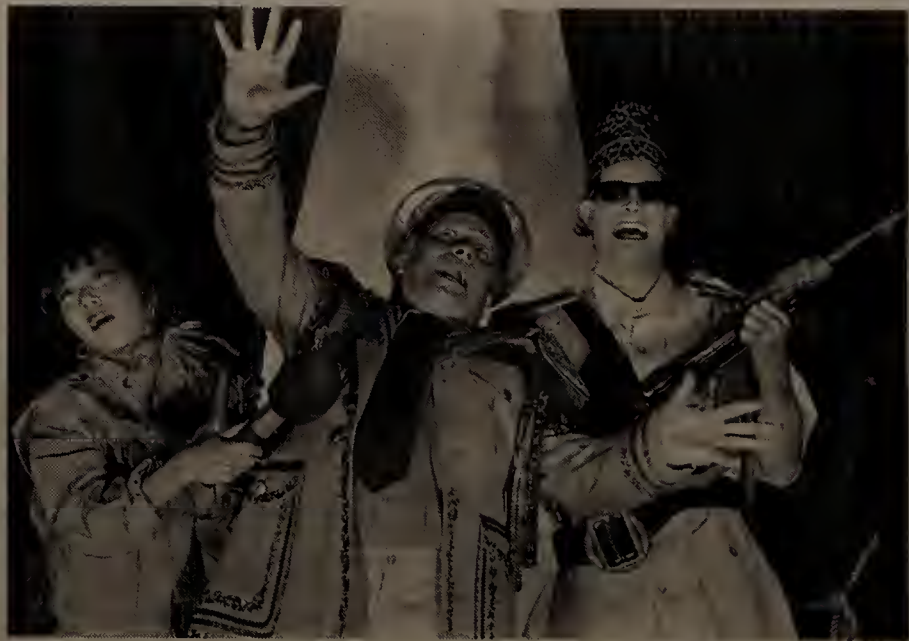
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The San Francisco Mime Troupe will premiere *Mr. Smith Goes to Obskuristan*, a political musical satire driven by the events of Sept. 11, in Dolores Park on July 4. Photo by David M. Allen

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Douglass Playground

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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JULY/AUGUST 2002

JUNE 29–JULY 29: Chicano artist XAVIER VIRAMONTES exhibits prints at Encantada Gallery and gives a talk about his work on June 29, from 2 to 4 pm. 908 Valencia St. 642-3939.

JUNE 29, JULY 6, 13, 20 & AUG. 24: LAPSITS for babies, toddlers, and their parents feature songs, stories, and fingerplays. 10:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JUNE 30: The Gay Pride CELEBRATION and Parade begins at 10:30 am at Market and Beale streets, and continues with music in the Civic Center Plaza. 864-3733.

JUNE 30–SEPT. 22: The Oakland Museum continues its exhibition celebrating the work of Noe Valley sculptor RUTH ASAWA. Special events include a "Conversation with Ruth Asawa" at 2 pm on July 14 and an origami workshop on Aug. 18, noon to 4 pm. The Oakland Museum is open Wed.–Sun., and is located at Tenth & Oak streets (Lake Merritt BART Station). 510-238-2200.

JULY 1–10: Voice photographer PAMELA GERARD exhibits her images of France at The French Class. 500 Sutter St. 362-3666.

JULY 1–AUG. 17: Creativity Explored hosts an ART SHOW featuring portraits. Mon.–Fri., 10 am–3 pm; Sat., 11 am–6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

JULY 1–30: Dimitri Kourouniotis and Kurt Glowienke exhibit MIXED-MEDIA PAINTINGS and charcoal drawings at Noe Art Space. Value Vacation, 3901 23rd St. 824-2553.

JULY 1–AUG. 30: LIVING T'AI CHI of Noe Valley offers classes including meditation and Qigong, taught by Chris Sequeira. Mon. and Tues., 6–7:30 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; Wed. and Fri., 10:15 am–noon, at Douglass Park, 27th & Douglass. 415-773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

JULY 2: A FOURTH OF JULY luncheon sponsored by St. Paul's Young at Heart senior club features an all-American menu of hot dogs, watermelon, and apple pie. 221 Valley St. Call 647-7173 for a reservation.

JULY 2: The KEY TO PEACE workshop at Integral Yoga explores the power of thought in shaping one's destiny. 6–8 pm. 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JULY 2–AUG. 13: Steban Guebara, founder of the Center for Higher Alignment, leads "The Roadmap Series: ENLIGHTENED RELATIONSHIPS." Seven Tuesdays, 7–9 pm. 1581 Dolores St. Register at 225-9892.

JULY 2, 16, 23 & 30; AUG. 6, 20 & 27: Preschool STORY TIME, a read-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5, begins at 10 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 3 & 9: The pixies of MYSTIC REALITY perform a mini-circus on July 3 at 3 pm at the Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. (695-5090). On July 9, they're at the Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St., 10:40 am (337-4740).

JULY 4, 6 & 7: The San Francisco MIME TROUPE performs Josh Kornbluth's political musical satire *Mr. Smith Goes to Obskuristan*. 1:30 pm. Dolores Park. 510-437-9881.

JULY 6: The 2002 BUTTERFLY COUNT at the Randall Museum includes a hike and species identification, for ages 5 and up. 1–3 pm. 199 Museum Way, 554-9600.

JULY 7, 14, 21 & 28: Kids of all ages are invited to STORY TIME, with reader Galen Murphy, at Cover to Cover Booksellers on Sundays in July, 11 a.m. to noon. 3812 24th St. 282-8080.



The Baguette Quartette plays Parisian café music on July 13 at the Noe Valley Music Series. Photo by Jennifer C. Hunter

JULY 7 & 21, AUG. 4 & 18: City Guides hosts a WALKING TOUR of the Mission Dolores neighborhood. Meet at noon at the gold-painted fire hydrant on the southeast corner of Church and 20th. 557-4266.

JULY 9: FILMS for preschoolers include *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *The Lion and the Mouse*, and *Mole and the Flying Carpet*. 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 10: The Jataka PUPPET THEATER performs stories, songs, and jokes for all ages. 3 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

JULY 11: The second annual Art and Healing summer benefit for ZEN HOSPICE PROJECT features brushstroke artist Kazuaki Tanahashi performing a six-foot *enso*, a traditional art form symbolizing transformation. 6:30–9 pm. Golden Gate Club in the Presidio, 863-2910.

JULY 11 & 13: Keeyla Meadows, author of *Making Garden Works of Art: Creating Your Own Personal Paradise*, leads a two-session GARDEN DESIGN seminar. Thurs., July 11, 6:30–9 pm; Sat., July 13, 9:30 am–noon. Strybing Arboretum, Golden Gate Park. Preregistration required at 661-1316, ext. 354.

JULY 12: ART FOR AIDS 2000 auction features contemporary art to benefit the UCSF AIDS Health Project. 7 pm; VIP opening reception 5:30 pm. Butterfield's, 220 San Bruno Ave. 514-3664.

JULY 12 & 14: HAWAIIAN VOCALIST Keali'i Reichel performs native songs and chants and contemporary English-language pop music. Lecture/demonstration July 12 at 5:30 pm, Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. Concert July 14, 2 pm, Stern Grove. 647-6015.

JULY 12–14: DANCERS' GROUP performs eclectic contemporary works in the Summer Dance Festival's "Range of Motion: Series II." 8 pm. Dance Mission Theater, 3316 24th St. 920-9181.

JULY 13: The SPCA's "Doggy Do-Gooder" DOLORES PARK CLEANUP runs from 9 to 11 am. 554-3000.

JULY 13: The San Francisco League of Urban Gardeners (SLUG) offers COMPOST TEA recipes to make nutritious liquid fertilizer for your plants. 10 am–noon. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. at Lawton. 285-7584.

JULY 13: Representatives of Thakar Singh, teacher of the Sant Mat Meditation Workshop, lead a group "MEDITATION: Know Your Own True Self" at 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 557-3223.

JULY 13: Berkeley resident AYELET WALDMAN signs her third "mommy-track mystery," *A Playdate with Death*. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 13: The Baguette Quartette perform a BASTILLE DAY concert (one day early) of French café music from the '20s, '30s, and '40s, featuring vocalist/accordion player Odile Levault. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JULY 13 & 14: The seventh annual SILENT FILM FESTIVAL includes *Captain January*, with Baby Peggy in person, Gloria Swanson's 1919 comedy, *Male and Female*, Harold Lloyd in *Girl Shy*, and closes with *Hell's Heroes* and a tribute to director William Wyler, led by Terrence Stamp. Castro Theater, 429 Castro St. 703-8650.

JULY 14: The INA CHALIS OPERA Ensemble performs Verdi's *La Traviata*. 2 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015.

JULY 14, 21 & 28: "CONJUGAL SPIRITUALITY," a three-session workshop exploring long-term sexual intimacy in committed relationships, is open to singles and couples, gay and straight. 10 am. Holy Innocents Church, 445 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

JULY 15: The Pride Committee has scheduled a PINK BRICK PROTEST of Dr. Laura Schlessinger at noon at KGO Radio Station, 900 Front St. 731-3647.

SPECIAL EVENT: AIDS ORPHAN BENEFIT

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CALENDAR



JULY 15-19: *Voice* contributor Janis Cooke Newman will lead a writing workshop for teens (12 to 16) at Cover to Cover Booksellers. Classes are 4 to 6 pm each day. 3812 24th St. Call to register: 282-8080.

JULY 16: POETS Daisy Zamora and George Evans read from their work at 8 pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. 626-2787.

JULY 17: The OPERA PICCOLA Small Works Theater Company performs the Asian folktale "Into the Eye of Magic," for all ages. 1 pm. Mission Library, 300 Bartlett St. 695-5090.

JULY 19: Michael McGarrity signs his New Mexico MYSTERY, *The Big Gamble*. 5 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 19-21: The "Young, Loud, and Proud" conference for LGBTQ YOUTH features performances, poetry slams, workshops, and a dance. For information call LYRIC, 703-6150, ext. 21.

JULY 20: BOOKS BY THE BAY hosts readings by poets and authors to benefit independent booksellers. 10 am-4 pm. Yerba Buena Gardens, Mission & Fourth. 927-3937.

JULY 20: JAY THE JUGGLER performs magic and comedy for all ages. 11:30 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

JULY 20: A WOMEN'S SELF-DEFENSE workshop led by Jeffrey Winters teaches simple, effective moves. 1-4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 509-6973.

JULY 20: DENISE OSBORNE signs the second mystery in her Salome Waterhouse series. 2 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 20: "ROCK-IT SCIENCE" features fun experiments for kids. 1:30 pm. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 337-4740.

JULY 21: The San Francisco Bicycle Coalition hosts a BIKE TOUR of the public sculptures of Beni Bufano. Noon-3 pm. Meet at the mother and child statue at the top of Fort Mason's Great Meadow, east of Laguna and Beach; ride ends at Valencia Gardens on 15th Street. 431-BIKE.

JULY 21: ANIMAL CARE and Control celebrates its 13th anniversary with live jazz, a silent auction, prizes, desserts, and vegetarian hors d'oeuvres at Enrico's Sidewalk Cafe. Noon-4 pm. 504 Broadway St. 822-5566.

JULY 21: Rand Richards leads a WALKING TOUR of North Beach, sponsored by the Mechanics' Institute Library and the City Club of San Francisco. 1:30-3 pm. For reservations and meeting location, call 362-2480 or 393-0100.

JULY 21: G.M. Ford signs his second Frank Corso MYSTERY, *Black River*, and Lynne Murray signs her third Josephine Fuller novel, *A Ton of Trouble*. 3 pm. San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

JULY 24-28: LADYFEST Bay Area features bands Bratmobile, the Donnas, and the Gossip, a MadCat Women's International Film Festival retrospective, artwork by Trina Robbins, and a "How to Be an Ethical Slut" workshop by Dossie Easton. Mission District venues; call 510-535-1041 for schedule.

JULY 25: The Bernal Heights BOOK CLUB will discuss Anne Michaels' *Fugitive Pieces*. 4 pm. Bernal Heights Library, 500 Cortland Ave. 695-5160.

JULY 25: William Benemann discusses the letters and diaries of GOLD RUSH settlers at the monthly meeting of the San Francisco History Association. 7 pm. Mission Dolores School Auditorium, 16th & Church. 750-9986.

JULY 25: UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meet at 7:30 pm, at the Upper Noe Rec Center on Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.



A pastel portrait by Melody Lima will be on display at Creativity Explored's art show "Seeing Behind the Faces," held July 1 through Aug. 17.

JULY 25-AUG. 12: The 22nd San Francisco JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL features Castro resident Rob Epstein's *Isaiah's Way*, and Mission District resident Etienne Kallos' *Living in Conflict*. Call 621-0556 for information.

JULY 27: Vocalist and performance artist PAMELA Z performs solos and duos with former Kronos Quartet cellist Joan Jeanrenaud. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

JULY 27: "Do You Need Long-Term Care INSURANCE?" will be discussed at the Older Women's League (OWL). 10:30 am-12:15 pm. Call 989-4422 for location and information.

JULY 30: A STRESSFREE LIVING workshop employs yoga, relaxation, and meditation. 6-7:30 pm. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 821-1117.

JULY 30: FOLK MUSIC legend Ronnie Gilbert joins Elizabeth Partridge, author of *This Land Was Made for You and Me: The Life and Songs of Woody Guthrie*. 6 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium 100 Larkin St. 557-4277.

AUG. 2 & 3: The S.F. CHORAL SOCIETY performs a concert of "Peace and Light," featuring Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* and Morten Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna*. 8 pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, 370 Dolores St. 392-4400.

AUG. 3: Steve Lacy plays a soprano SAXOPHONE concert. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

AUG. 9: The Joel Futterman/Ike Levin Group performs IMPROVISATIONAL MUSIC to celebrate the release of its third CD, *LifeLine*. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238.

AUG. 12 & 13: Actors 18 to 40 are invited to AUDITION for roles in the 1977 musical review *Starting Here, Starting Now*, to be performed by the Bethany Theatre Project Oct. 18 to 28. Bring sheet music in your key for one Broadway song, headshot, and resume. 7 pm. 1268 Sanchez St. www.BethanyTheatre.homestead.com. 647-8393.

AUG. 22: FILMS for preschoolers 3 to 5 will be shown at 10 and 11 am. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 695-5095.

Singing a September Song

Tell the world about your September event. The next edition of the *Voice* will be out on the street on or before Sept. 1, 2002. Please make sure we hear about your event by **Aug. 15**. Our address is Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you may send an e-mail to zabarska@aol.com.

AUG. 23: The Western swing band LOST WEEKEND performs at a concert/dance at the Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15 pm. 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317.

AUG. 24: LIFE LINE Screening checks the carotid arteries for stroke risk, leg arteries for peripheral arterial disease, the aortic vessel in the abdomen for aneurysms, and tests bone density. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. Registration is required at 1-800-407-4557.

AUG. 25: "The Spirituality of ANGLICAN MUSIC" begins a series examining liturgical music from the English Reformation to the present 10 am. Holy Innocents Episcopal Church, 445 Fair Oaks St. 824-5142.

AUG. 29: Attend the UPPER NOE NEIGHBORS meeting at 7:30 pm, at Upper Noe Rec Center on Day and Sanchez. 285-0473.

AUG. 31: The first-ever GAMES NIGHT at the Noe Valley Ministry features Scrabble, charades, and Pictionary, among others, plus refreshments. 1021 Sanchez St. 285-7706 or 282-2317.



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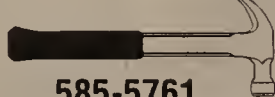
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Pass with care. Our adventuresome neighbors are coming through with news from the road and destinations far from our village within San Francisco U.S.A.

A copy of the *Noe Valley Voice* is required to pass beyond many boundaries and may be used as proof of citizenship at foreign photomats. So take a tip from the travel savvy and pack light, but take some good hometown reading material with you.

When you return, mail us the story (a photo is fine). Address it to *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Or you can e-mail a JPEG scan or digital photo to jack@noevalleyvoice.com.

Please include your phone number in case we need to check your handwriting.

Thirty-year residents of Noe Valley Donna and Mark Rand toured France in April, stopping here at the Pont du Gard near Avignon. This portion of the ancient Roman aqueduct is depicted on the back of the new five Euro bill. Donna and Mark are not. But we'll vote for them as poster people for Noe Valley currency when it becomes available.



We'll see you in September. Please note that the *Voice* will be on vacation during the month of July. We'd love to return to a full mailbox in August, so stock up on 37¢ stamps and let us know what you've been up to. Get your information to us by Aug. 15. Thanks.

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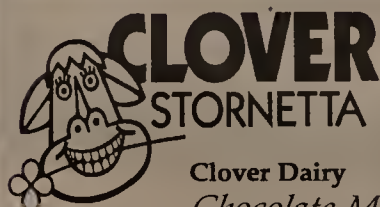
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STORE TREK

Store Trek is a regular *Voice* column introducing new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month's Store Trek features Incanto, an "enchanted" Italian restaurant on Church Street; Lisa Violetto Designs, a popular handbag and accessory designer on Castro; and Danu, a Church Street salon that is blossoming into a fashion boutique.

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Where the beloved Speckmann's German Restaurant used to be—at the corner of Church and Duncan streets, across from Martha's Coffee—there now sits a brand-new (and long-awaited) Italian restaurant called Incanto. Though the cuisine will be markedly different, Incanto owner Mark Pastore hopes he can live up to the Speckmann tradition of serving the neighborhood.

"Ebby and Peter Ullmann were here for over 37 years!" Pastore exclaims. "A restaurant in the family for that long is really something for San Francisco. It reminds me of the restaurants I love so much in Italy."

Pastore comes from Italian stock, but grew up in rural New England. He currently resides in the Sunset District and until last year was director of marketing for Tumbleweed Communications, a Redwood City-based software company. "I loved my work there, but I was dealing with competing passions, because I love to work with food, too."

He often explored these food passions while visiting relatives and friends in Italy, as well as while dining with friends and colleagues in Noe Valley. "When I came upon Speckmann's for sale a year and a half ago, I knew this was the place." After close to a year of renovation, Pastore opened Incanto on June 2.

The restaurant was designed by Incanto's next-door neighbor Bob Sauvageau of RYS Architects, who turned the two-room cottage feel of Speckmann's into

one large space more subtly divided into cozy dining areas—a rotunda entrance with a small stand-up bar, a large dining room, a full-service wine bar, and a small banquet room Pastore has dubbed "The Dante Room."

Incanto (Italian for "enchanted") is awash with warm Tuscany browns and reds and is dominated by Italian artwork. The Dante Room, however, is graced by a large mural depicting scenes from Dante's *Inferno*, painted by Noe Valley artist Tom Mogensen.

You can get a glass of wine at the long, sandstone-colored wine bar that seats 12, or you can sit down at small tables next to it. Along with an extensive wine list (more than 150 labels), the bar affords a view of the lively goings-on in the large dining room.

The wine list is compiled and supervised by Claudio Villani. Born and raised



The Roman arches and high ceilings enhance the airy open feeling in Church Street's new Incanto Restaurant. Photo by Beverly Thorp

in Florence, Villani is a professional sommelier (the French word for wine steward) with several years of experience in Italy. "It's not as mysterious as some people think," Villani says. "You will come enjoy some good wine, and if you want to learn more, this is what I'm here for!"

Wines by the bottle range from \$21 for a Chianti Rufina to \$56 for the Brunello di Montalcino. The list is mostly Italian, owing to Villani's experience, and there

are at least 25 wines available by the glass, from \$5 to \$12 each.

Villani also offers special features at the wine bar, such as "The Three Vermentinos" (a half-glass each of Santadi, Cantina Sociale di Gallura, and Antinori, \$11) and "Sangiovese There and Here" (half-glass of Brunello Casanova di Neri, Chianti Rufina Riserva Basciano, and Riserva Noceto, \$14).

And of course, you should eat something.

Chef Paul Buscemi has a simple one-page menu, "filled with the kind of food you might find on the table of a Tuscany family home," says Pastore. "All our dishes are prepared in the spirit of the Italian countryside."

Buscemi has been working as a chef in the Bay Area for 20 years, first at Chez Panisse in Berkeley, then at Square One in the city, and finally at Tomales Bay Foods in West Marin. But Buscemi says, "I'd really rather be known for just being a good cook."

Buscemi starts things cooking with appetizers such as the spring onion soup (\$6.50), San Danielle prosciutto with mango and cheese (\$10), or green-bean and saffron onion with pine nuts (\$9.50). A favorite entrée is pan-roasted King salmon with shaved fennel, beets, and salsa verde (\$19). You might also try one of the heartier plates, such as roast chicken, roast pork, rib-eye steak, spaghetti, or penne pasta. Interesting side orders include broccoli *di ciccio* (a younger, sweeter broccoli, \$4) and Blue-lake beans and olive oil (\$4).

Buscemi says he will add dishes now and then, but the menu will never be more than a page long (six or so entrées). "I am always suspicious of overly large menus. How can they all be done well?"

There are a variety of beverages available, from beers such as Anchor Steam (\$4), Bordelet pear cider (\$5), or Erdinger Hefe-Weiss (\$6). You can sip a limonata (\$2.50) or get a caffè latté (\$3) or regular cup of coffee (\$2.50). Cold filtered water, carbonated by a system Pastore had seen in Italy and had made to order here, is offered free at each table.

Pastore says he felt things coming together when, on one of the first nights Incanto was open, neighbor Gerry Hinkley offered a toast.

"He stood up, right in the middle of the dinner rush and bought everyone in the house a glass of sparkling wine," Pastore recalls. "He said that he hopes Incanto becomes a place where everyone shares birthdays, anniversaries, and other important occasions together for a long time to come. That meant so much to me."

Hinkley, a Sanchez Street resident, remembers the evening well. "Mark had been very sensitive to the neighbors throughout the construction, and then we all were there that night in this beautiful place having a great meal. I just had to get up and tell everyone what a wonderful addition Incanto is to our neighborhood!"

Incanto is open Wednesday through Monday, from 5 to 10 p.m. (closed Tuesdays). The wine bar is open until 11 p.m.

—Heidi Anderson



Designer Lisa Violetto's beaded purses, scarves, and other accessories have been featured in *Vogue* and *Mademoiselle*.

LISA VIOLETTA DESIGNS
1414C Castro Street between Jersey
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415-341-8442
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Lisa Violetto, the proprietor and creative force behind Lisa Violetto Designs, loves color. "Color is so much happier than black," she says.

Not surprisingly then, most of the handcrafted silk purses, scarves, and totes that adorn the walls and shelves of her second-floor shop and studio, located at 1414 Castro Street, are in bright oranges, purples, pinks, and greens.

After primarily selling her wares wholesale to small boutiques and catalogs for more than a decade and operating out of a warehouse in the South of Market area, Violetto relocated her business to Noe Valley in February. Since then, she has begun the process of becoming a retailer of her merchandise, which has been featured in *Vogue*, *Mademoiselle*, and *Seventeen*. "We had a little outlet store in front of our studio on Brannan," she explains. "and we got a lot of people coming in there to buy our purses and scarves. So the idea of becoming a retailer just sort of mushroomed."

Violetto, who has lived with her husband Gary Taormina on Alvarado Street for almost two decades, insists she's not looking to become the next Kate Spade, though. "It's really important to me that I create handmade artisan things," she says. "You can't do that if you mass-merchandise, like Kate Spade does. Plus, there are quality-control issues. I want to stay at the boutique level. I want to spend my time designing things that women feel great about putting on."

Violetto does all the cutting and pattern-making for her merchandise. She sews and beads the items with the help of a staff of four seamstresses who work in a "little factory" behind the store, filled with bolts of fabric and boxes of beads.

Another reason Violetto wants the business to stay small is so that she and Taormina, who handles the business end of things, can spend plenty of time with their two children, Peter, a fifth-grader at Alvarado School, and Veronica, an

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



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STORE TREK

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33

eighth-grader at St. Paul's.

Ninety percent of Violetto's purses and scarves are made of silk from Italy and France. Asian-influenced and flowered fabrics, along with French brocade, faux suede, and pearl and glass beads, often show up in her merchandise. She works with anywhere from 60 to 90 fabrics each season to come up with 50 different shapes of bags. Most of the purses have beaded straps, and beads often dangle from the ends of the scarves, both as decoration "and to hold the scarves in place," she says.

Prices range from \$35 for a small bag—suitable for carrying a wallet, car keys, and a lipstick—to \$110 for a tote large enough to do double-duty as a diaper bag or weekender. She also custom-makes bags for wedding parties and other special occasions.

For customers looking to coordinate their accessories, Violetto offers scarves, priced from \$39 to \$69, to match the handbags. "Some people come in and purchase a scarf, a tote, and a small purse all out of the same material," she says. They also may buy beaded necklaces and earrings, priced from \$10 to \$200.

"I love fabric and I love beads," says Violetto, "so I always try to combine them in what I make."

Born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y., Violetto has been studying art since she was 5. She has a degree in fine arts from Hunter College, but took a detour from her creative work for 11 years in the mid-'70s and '80s—to work as a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood in New York. Just two weeks after she left her Planned Parenthood job to relocate to San Francisco and start Lisa Violetto Designs, the clinic in her building was blown up. "I was part of the so-called 'bomb squad,'" says Violetto. "I was trained to look for suspicious packages and alert the authorities."

Her husband was the instigator in moving to San Francisco. "We were bicoastal for five years, with him living out here and me on the East Coast," says Violetto, "and then he finally broke me down in

1986 to move out here full-time. We'll be married 16 years in October."

Since then, she has more than adjusted, and in fact, has come to love Noe Valley.

"We're so glad to have our studio here," she says. "Life is way less stressful not having to go to South of Market every day, and since I'm spending so much more time in the neighborhood, I feel like I'm reconnecting with people here. We love the weather, and we love the ambiance of 24th Street. It's got the feel of a New York neighborhood. You know, I walk down the street and say hi to this person, hi to that person. It's how I grew up."

Soon, Violetto hopes to expand to the storefront below hers (formerly the home of Purely Physical Fitness and most recently the temporary location of Zephyr Real Estate) to increase street traffic. She also hopes to increase her merchandise to include housewares, such as tablecloths, candleholders, lampshades and bases, and even some furniture.

Although the store is officially open only during the afternoons, Violetto says she is often in the studio in the mornings, so people "should take a chance and drop in. Or you can always call and make a special appointment. If you've got a fashion emergency, no problem. We'll take care of you."

Lisa Violetto Designs is open Monday through Saturday from noon to 5:30 p.m., and by appointment.

—Kathy Dalle-Molle

DANU

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The bright orange "Grand Opening" banner recently hanging in the front window of Danu Salon & Spa may have puzzled some Noe Valley residents. Hasn't Danu been in that location for a number of years?

In fact, Danu Salon has been on Church Street near the corner of Cesar Chavez for six years. However, the banner is not for the hair salon. It's heralding the new Danu clothing boutique.

The good news is that Noe Valley hasn't lost Danu Salon & Spa; it will continue to operate on a "request and referral" basis. Instead, salon owner Teresa Donnelly and her daughter Tara Kitami decided to expand their business and transform the salon space into a fashion-

forward, women's clothing and accessories store.

"We're excited that Church Street is becoming a destination street," says Donnelly. "I think a new boutique complements the other merchants and offers more opportunities for local and visiting shoppers on upper Church."

The bi-level salon space has been converted nicely, with accessories and beauty products on the lower level, and clothing and (soon-to-be-added) shoes on the second level. Donnelly and Kitami want to create a venue for distinctive clothing by offering lines not represented elsewhere on the West Coast. "We're featuring brands like Bony, Vianco, Sxy's, and Shyde, which are big in New York, but you don't find them out here," explains Kitami. "We also have Casadei, a designer who I'm sure is about to explode. As far as I know, she's not found anywhere else in San Francisco."

Another plus is that you're not likely to see your Danu outfit on everybody else. Says Kitami, "We don't buy huge quantities of any particular item, so customers can enjoy having almost one-of-a-kind pieces." Kitami points to a shelf of fuzzy, pastel-colored sweaters. "These embroidered mohair sweaters [\$108] are from L.A. There was only a small inventory available and we bought them out, so you won't see these sweaters anywhere but here."

Donnelly and Kitami bought the first round of inventory together and plan to continue to work that way each season. The mother/daughter team makes for an ideal business partnership. Donnelly, who is a cosmetologist by trade, has had a successful business in the neighborhood for years. Kitami is a student at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising, focusing on product development. Their combined input allows them to buy for a wider age range, style, and taste. "Our goal is to cater to women of all ages and sizes," says Donnelly.

As longtime residents of Noe Valley, they are tuned into what women here are wearing. The Danu boutique was planned with the Noe Valley clientele in mind. "The style of dress here is very casual. There are a lot of moms who want to wear comfortable clothes," Kitami says. "We want to enable casual moms to be more fashion-conscious."

They also want to offer affordable



Tara Kitami is excited about the East Coast fashions she and her mother, Teresa Donnelly, are now offering at Danu on Church Street.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

clothes. "We're trying to keep the prices down," says Kitami. "Our clothes range from really affordable knit tops [\$19] to higher-end ensembles, such as the long Michel Stephen velvet dress and jacket for \$310."

Walk into Danu, and you will most likely meet Kitami, who is now managing, merchandising, and marketing the shop. She makes it a point to get to know her customers, their taste, and their particular wardrobe needs.

"I remember people and I know what they're doing and what they like to wear," Kitami asserts. "I give people upfront, straightforward fashion advice for their particular body types, sense of style, and comfort. I know all about the lines we carry. I picked them out! I'm not going to recommend something that doesn't flatter the customer."

Danu is open from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. Tuesday through Friday, the shop is open from noon to 8:30 p.m. Hours may change.

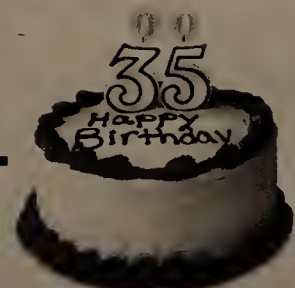
—Beth Gilbert



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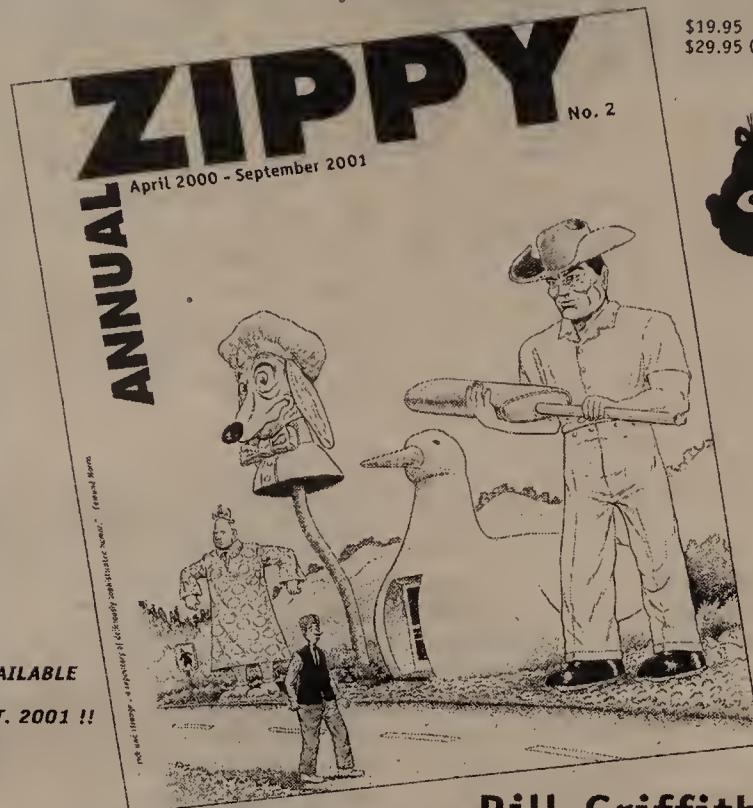
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The Taming of My Temper (and My Older Brother)

An item I read long ago in the *Chronicle's* "Grab Bag" section helped me come to grips with the teasing I suffered as a child. It stated, "Children certainly tease one another.... The reason is that a touch of malice and amusement toward those we love keeps our affections for them from going stale."

That may be so, but in observing my nieces and nephews over the years, and in recalling my own experience, I've noted a certain imbalance: girls are usually on the receiving end of the "malice and amusement," and given the rules of the pecking order, elder siblings tend to be the teasers.

Back in the 1920s when I was growing up, there was no friction between me and my docile little brother, Warde, who was two years younger. He placidly allowed me to manage his days while our working parents were away from home.

But my older brother, whom I called "Clarie" (his full name was John Clarence), had enjoyed exclusive attention until I came along—and since he was five years older and a good foot taller than I was, he deemed it his duty to keep his stubborn little sister in line.

Although my brothers and I were extremely fond of one another, as well as fiercely loyal, there were times when the first-born could be absolutely infuriating.

Starting when I was about 8, whenever Clarie was bored, he would find a way to create a little excitement. Choosing a moment when my back was turned, he would creep up behind me and then whip his fingers down and over my rump with such force that even through my jeans, the jab stung painfully and provoked a loud yowl. Then he would gleefully sprint away up the unpaved streets of our not-

yet-developed neighborhood, with me in angry pursuit. Although I exerted every ounce of strength I had, I rarely caught up with him.

Once in a while, just for fun, Clarie would allow me to catch him, only to hold me off with one hand on my head while I kicked and swung my arms in circles like a windmill gone berserk—never connecting with my tormentor because my limbs were too short.

These skirmishes continued for years, with each affront leaving a deposit of angry frustration. Had our parents known, they would have put an end to the squabbling. But for one of us to inform on the other would have been a traitorous violation of our code of loyalty!

It all came to a climax one day, at home after school, when I was about 11. Once again, I felt a sudden, sharp pain on my posterior—the kind that only my brother could inflict. I jerked around to retaliate, with murder in my heart, but he had already rushed through the dining-room door, locking it behind him and laughing back at me through the French-door window panes.

Possessed by unbridled rage, I thrust my fist through the square of glass between us. As blood ran down my arm, Clarie's triumphant expression turned to one of horror.

Demonstrating his better nature, however, he immediately administered first aid and conducted me to the kitchen to wash the scratches (fortunately, superficial) under cold tap water. Next he removed the telltale splinters of glass from the pane and floor.

No one even noticed the pane was missing until weeks later, when my father replaced it, remarking, "When did this happen?" My brother and I remembered the incident only too well, but mum was the word.

Over the following months, I engaged in some serious soul-searching. Realizing that if my terrible temper were not controlled I could seriously harm myself or someone else, I resolved to repress it, to turn the other cheek, so to speak.

So the next time I was attacked, I



gritted my teeth and counted to 10.

This strategy proved to be the right one. Once Clarie saw that he could no longer induce a violent reaction, he lost interest in continuing his malicious mischief and turned his energy to more fruitful pursuits.

Now in his junior year at Balboa High School, he also was making a name for himself as a fleet-footed runner on the track team. He had always shown remarkable speed, and with the encouragement of a coach and teammates, who shared the excitement of the competition, "J.C." Mickelson soon became a championship runner, winning medals and earning glowing press reviews. Sometimes I got to watch him compete, with his long easy stride that would accelerate as he neared the finish line, leaving his rivals in the dust—as he had so often left me.

Clarie had graduated by the time I entered Balboa, and I had not experienced an angry outburst in three years, so I imagined that the fury he once inspired had disappeared. Alas, I was mistaken.

It resurfaced one day while I was climbing the central staircase, filled with students bound for the upstairs classrooms. Unexpectedly, I felt that almost-forgotten, hated swipe down my backside. My store of anger, so conscientiously repressed, welled up, erupting in a powerful swing of my right arm, which landed a resounding wallop on the cheek of the guilty hulk (not my brother) behind me.

The slapping sound attracted the attention and disapproving stares of the other students, which sent me scurrying away in embarrassment, leaving the perpetrator of the deed frozen in his tracks, his face turning crimson.

Thereafter, he kept a safe distance from me, and I could not help but notice that the rest of the boys at school also treated me with guarded respect.

And to my relief, that punch released the last of my pent-up resentment!



For this 1927 portrait, taken at the Downtown Market Street Studio, 6-year-old Warde Mickelson (left) and sister Florence, 8, were asked to stand on a box to elevate them closer to Florence's nemesis, big brother "Clarie," age 13.



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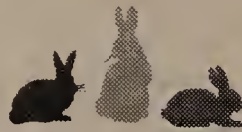
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Tub for Two. May 24 was water play day, and Noe Valley's Peppertree preschoolers reveled in the opportunity. Sam Arbona (left) and Sean Durnin even sat still for a moment to help record the fun.

Photo by Ann Scalf



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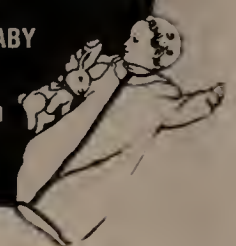
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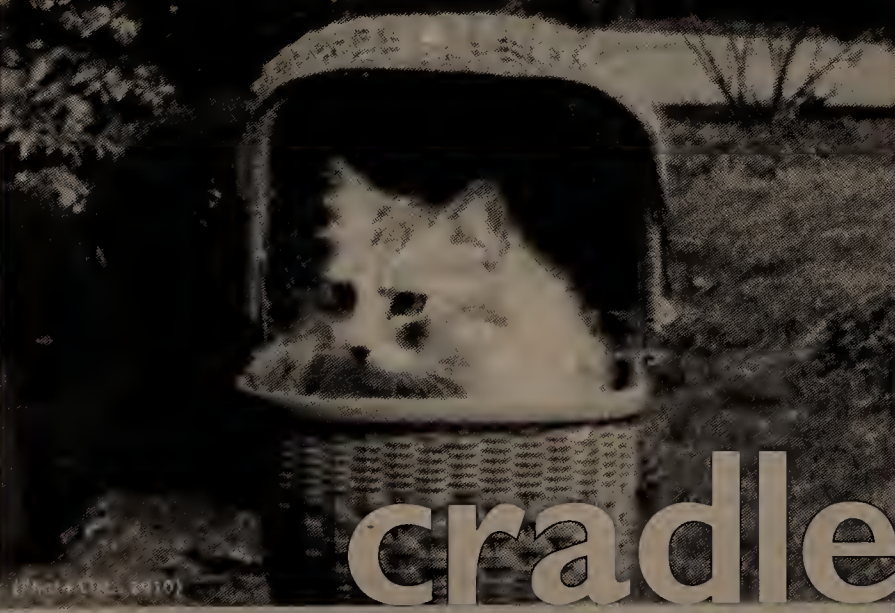


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The Other Ballpark

Watching Baseball in Oakland

By Janis Cooke Newman

Don't get me wrong. I love the Giants. I love to watch Barry Bonds hit and Reggie Sanders run. I love to watch Robb Nen pitch and Tsuyoshi Shinjo steal bases. I love to just watch Rich Aurilia.

I also love Pac Bell Park. Where else can baseball fans get a bay view, seats practically on the field, and the opportunity to slide down a metal tube inside a giant Coke bottle?

What I don't love is trying to get tickets to see the Giants play at Pac Bell Park. With nearly every game sold out in advance, every time we want to take our son Alex to a game, we wind up hanging around Third and King streets for an hour, pleading to buy tickets for less than than \$30 apiece. No easy feat when you're a family and want three or four seats together.

Which explains why on this summer Saturday, my husband Ken, Alex, and I are riding a BART train east to the Oakland uh, the Network Associates Coliseum, or what is known around San

Francisco as The Other Ballpark.

"There's no A in mercy," Alex reads from a BART advertisement for the Oakland A's. "What does that mean?"

"It means the A's kick butt," my husband explains, thereby broadening Alex's definition of good sportsmanship.

The Other Ballpark chalks up points for how easy it is to get there. Like Pac Bell Park, it's accessible by public transportation. Two BART lines go right to the Coliseum.

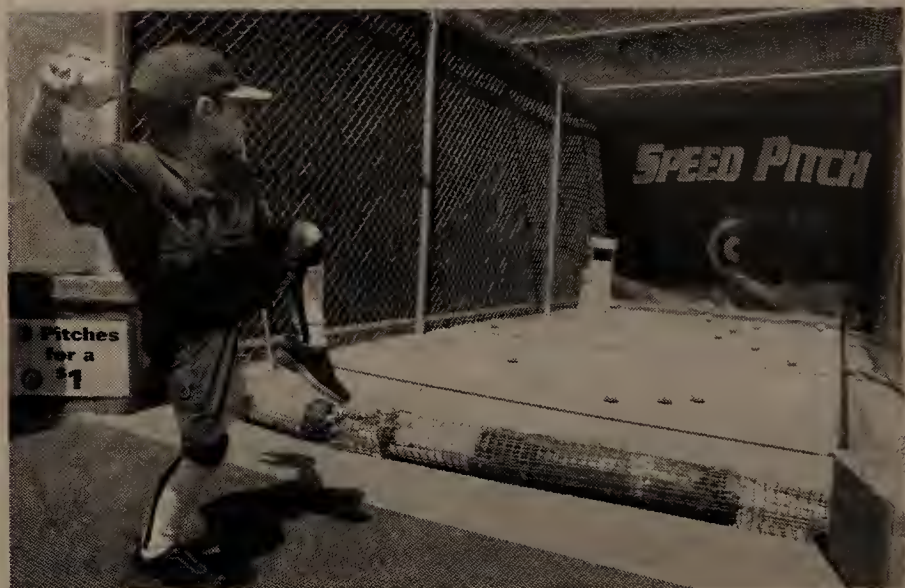
When it comes to setting, however, the Coliseum gets shut out by Pac Bell Park. Instead of palm trees and a sailboat-filled marina, the Coliseum is surrounded by rusted train tracks, weedy lots, and graffitied storage containers. Fortunately, Oakland fans don't have to walk through this gritty landscape, but can pass over it on the pedestrian bridge that runs from the BART station right to the Coliseum gates.

"Are there any more Eric Chavez bobbleheads?" my husband asks a guard at the ticket window. Today is Eric Chavez Bobblehead Day and the A's are

Unlike some folks who go to Pac Bell Park just to eat garlic fries and soak up the scenery, A's fans go to see the game. And support their team. When the jumbo screen by the nose-bleed seats lights up with a pair of clapping hands, these people actually clap. And stamp their feet. And shout, "Let's go, Oakland!"

giving away 15,000 wobbly-headed dolls of the popular third baseman.

"Are you kidding?" the guard tells him. "People were lining up at eight this morning to get those things."



The Stomper Kids Zone at the Coliseum has climbing structures and "inchworm" rockers, and booths where kids can sharpen their batting and pitching skills. Photos by Ken Newman

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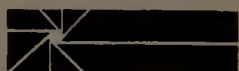
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The Oakland A's were on a hot streak in late June. But it was still possible for baseball fans to scoot under the Bay on BART and buy tickets the day of the game.

Getting up early on a Saturday morning to score a bobblehead is nothing for A's fans, who tend to lean toward the rabid side. As we enter the park, we spot one fan who is apparently so excited about Eric Chavez Bobblehead Day, he's dressed himself up as an Eric Chavez bobblehead. We see him moving through the stands, high-fiving everyone as his enormous papier-mâché head bobs up and down.

Once we're in our seats, we have to sidestep to make room for three teenage girls who have painted and sprayed their hair into Marge Simpson-high beehives in A's green and yellow.

Unlike some folks who go to Pac Bell Park just to eat garlic fries and soak up the scenery, A's fans go to see the game. And support their team. When the jumbo screen by the nosebleed seats lights up with a pair of clapping hands, these people actually clap. And stamp their feet. And shout, "Let's go, Oakland!"

In the first inning, when batter Miguel Tejada comes up to home plate, a fan in the bleachers who has brought a trumpet to the game begins playing "Tequila."

"Tejada!" the entire ballpark shouts, replacing the cactus-based alcoholic drink with the name of the hard-hitting shortstop.

By the fourth inning of this matchup with the Devil Rays, I can see that even with the colorful Giambi brothers gone, the A's still have personality. Adam Piatt can blast a Bonds-worthy home run. Jermaine Dye can run so fast, his legs are a blur. And Eric Chavez does indeed deserve bobblehead status.

When Alex hits his fifth-inning-I'm-bored slump, I take him up to the Stomper Kids Zone. While there's no giant slide or miniature ballpark to run around in like at Pac Bell, there is speed pitching, and T-ball hitting, and fielding practice—kids swing at balls fired from an air gun. And the lines for all these activities are much shorter. The Stomper Kids Zone also has attractions for really little leaguers—plastic climbing structures and rockers in the shape of inchworms.

After Alex pitches a respectable (for a 7-year-old) 32-mph fastball, we go searching for snacks. Like Pac Bell Park, the Coliseum does provide fans with plenty of places to purchase the two most important baseball food groups—garlic fries and Krispy Kreme

donuts. But the Coliseum goes Pac Bell Park one better, by offering something the Giants stadium doesn't. Tucked behind Section 109 is Your Black Muslim Bakery, which sells a fish sandwich it describes as "a taste of the hereafter."

"If this is what the hereafter tastes like," says my husband, eating so fast he's dropping pieces of breaded white-fish in his lap, "I'm converting."

During the seventh-inning stretch when we stand up to sing "Take Me Out to the Ballgame," I suddenly realize that I'm feeling something I have never felt at Pac Bell Park—hot. For the first time since moving to the West Coast, I'm watching baseball the way the rest of the country does, sweating and dying for a cold beer.

I finish singing and settle back into my seat, tipping my face up to the bright blue sky. As Terrance Long strides to home plate, I decide that I have just come up with the next slogan for the A's advertising campaign: *There's no A in fog.* □

Janis Cooke Newman's book *The Russian Word for Snow* is available in paperback at *Cover to Cover Booksellers* on 24th Street. Newman will also be teaching a creative writing workshop for teens (12 to 16) this summer at *Cover to Cover*. Call the store at 282-8080 or e-mail j-newman@pacbell.net for more information.

Visiting The Other Ballpark

Getting Tickets: Getting tickets to see the A's does not involve any complicated street corner negotiations. Instead, you can get pretty much all the seats you want by calling 510-762-2255, visiting any Tickets.com outlet, or getting on the A's web site, <http://oakland.athletics.mlb.com>. Ticket prices range from \$7 to \$32, and kids 14 and under can get half-price seats in some sections.

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At the Hop. This historical photo, taken May 4, 2002, shows Children's Day School kids and a helper, lining up for their fair's famous sack race. We can't show you the rocking and rolling outcome, but we guarantee that all these youngsters are aerobic fitness winners. Let's go!

Photo by Pamela Gerard



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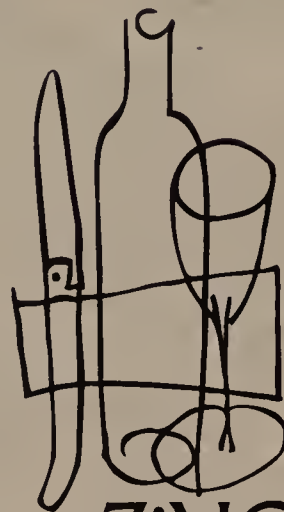
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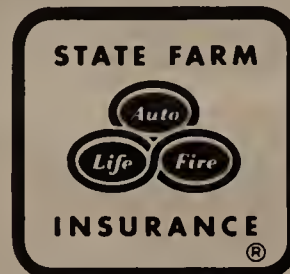
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Jour 35: Internet Journalism

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Jour 36: Advanced Reporting

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Jour 37: Introduction to Photojournalism

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BOOKS in our BRANCH

This month's new book list, selected and described by librarians Roberta Greifer, Joseph Liebman, Donna Trifillo, and Carol Small, features Cara Black's hot new murder mystery, Lawrence Ferlinghetti's *San Francisco Poems*, and a treatise on the parenting skills of dinosaurs. To find out if a book is available, call 695-5095 or visit the Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street near Castro. Besides books, the branch offers videos, DVDs, magazines, CDs, and the archives and index to the *Noe Valley Voice*. It also has a women's literature section and a collection of adult books in Spanish, plus subscriptions to the *New York Times*, *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, and *Barron's*. Hours are Tuesdays, 10 to 9; Wednesdays, 1 to 9; Thursdays, 10 to 6; Fridays, 1 to 6; and Saturdays, 10 to 6.

Adult Fiction

◆ In *Murder in the Sentier*, the latest of Noe Valley author Cara Black's mysteries set in Paris, detective Aimée Leduc, who has always wanted to know the truth about her missing mother, goes to the city's garment district to meet a woman who claims to have known her mother in prison.

◆ Kate Grenville's novel *The Idea of Perfection* pits a native arts and crafts preservationist against a civil engineer sent to demolish a decrepit but picturesque bridge in a small Australian town.

◆ In *Unless*, Carol Shields' protagonist is forced to reevaluate her own life when her daughter becomes a Toronto street person who wears a sign around her neck that says "Goodness."



Adult Nonfiction

◆ Stephen Jay Gould's collection of 31 essays, *I Have Landed—The End of a Beginning in Natural History*, includes an analysis of Vladimir Nabokov's fascination with butterflies and a remembrance of his own maternal grandfather.

◆ In *The Demon and the Angel: Searching for the Source of Artistic Inspiration*, Edward Hirsch examines what Federico Garcia Lorca called the *duende*, a mysterious force that stirs artistic passions and seems to arrive at extreme moments in our lives.

◆ Renowned poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti describes the look and feel of his adopted city from the first time he saw it (1950), in his collection *San Francisco Poems*. He also writes a "Challenge to Young Poets": *Think long thoughts in short sentences. Go to sea, or work near water. Invent a new language anyone can understand.*

Annotations by Joseph Liebman
Librarian, Noe Valley Branch

Children's Fiction

◆ Vivid images from a country farm are accompanied by lyrical poems that invite children to guess which word matches the letter on each page of *Quilt Alphabet* by Lesa Cline-Ransome. *Ages 3 to 6.*

◆ In *Abiyoyo Returns* by Pete Seeger and Paul DuBois Richards, a young girl brings back the ferocious monster her father drove away in Seeger's earlier book, *Abiyoyo*. But this time, perhaps having a monster in town might not be such a bad idea. *Ages 3 to 8.*

◆ Jenny helps her grandma prepare for her baby brother's Chinese "first-moon" (one-month) birthday party, even though at first she doesn't think he's worth all the fuss, in Lenore Look's picture story *Henry's First-Moon Birthday*. *Ages 4 to 7.*

◆ Starting with deportation by *la migra* and ending with enrolling in college, *Breaking Through* is an autobiographical memoir in which Francisco Jiménez describes his high school years in California. *Ages 10 and up.*

◆ A teenager in 19th-century Philadelphia learns her lessons well at Miss Hepplewhite's Young Ladies' Academy, but finds she must develop a whole new set of skills to live in the wilderness, in *Boston Jane* by Jennifer L. Holm. *Ages 10 and up.*

Children's Nonfiction

◆ A teacher magically transports her class back in time in *Ms. Frizzle's Adventures: Ancient Egypt*, a large-format spinoff to the Magic Schoolbus series. *Ages 5 to 8.*

◆ *Muslim Child: Understanding Islam Through Stories and Poems*, by Rukhsana Khan, includes stories from Muslim communities around the world. *Ages 8 to 12.*

◆ With new fossilized evidence, scientists are discovering that dinosaurs may have been good parents; Kathleen Weidner Zoehfeld looks at the relationships of *Dinosaur Parents, Dinosaur Young*. *Ages 9 to 12.*

Annotations by Carol Small and Donno Trifillo
Children's Librarians, Noe Valley Branch

Library Activities

Jay the Juggler

◆ Jay the Juggler (alias Jay Gluckman) performs *juggling, magic, and comedy* for all ages, at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, July 20.

Summer Movies

◆ Preschoolers 3 to 5 are invited to watch *films*, including *Harold and the Purple Crayon*, *The Lion and the Mouse*, and *Mole and the Flying Carpet*, at 10 and 11 a.m. on Tuesday, July 9; other, equally amusing films will be shown on Thursday, Aug. 22.

Preschool Story Time

◆ Children ages 3 to 5 can hear stories read aloud at the library's *preschool story time*, at 10 a.m. on Tuesdays, July 2, 16, 23, and 30, and Aug. 6, 20, and 27.

July and August Lapsits

◆ The family *lapsits* offer stories, songs, and fingerplays for infants and toddlers at 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, July 6, 13, and 20, and Aug. 24.

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Janis Cooke Newman is the author of "The Russian Word for Snow", a memoir published by St. Martin's Press. Her writing has appeared in numerous anthologies, newspapers and magazines.

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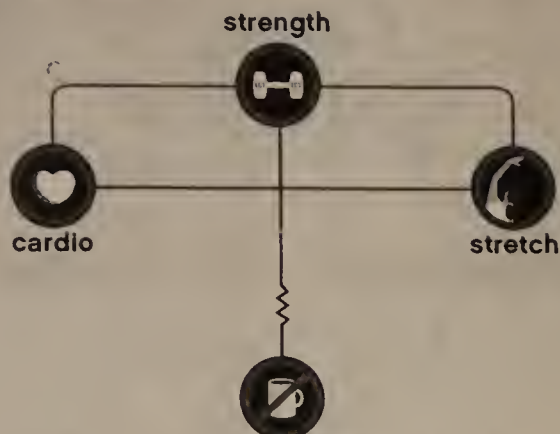
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Contact: Greg Clark, 826-6222
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31869, San Francisco, CA 94131-0869
Meetings: First Tuesday of month, in the auditorium at Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7 p.m.

Castro Area Planning + Action

Contact: Linton Stables, 541-0344, ext. 230; capa@home4us.org
Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Cesar Chavez Neighborhood Association

Contact: Mike Moberg, 647-1330
Mailing Address: First Church of God, 3728 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: First Thursday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
Mailing Address: 3732 21st St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Bimonthly board meetings; membership meetings semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contact: Keith Eickman, 282-8988; Evelyn Martin, 826-6734; Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Held periodically. Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: First Wednesday of month, Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m. Call for summer holiday schedule.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137, San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Third Thursday of every month (except December), Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Pam Coxson, 648-4977
Mailing Address: 25 Fair Oaks St., San Francisco, CA 94110
Meetings: Call for details. The annual Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day before Mother's Day.



Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Valley

Contact: Dave Monks, 821-4087
Mailing Address: 538 Elizabeth St., San Francisco, CA 94114
Meetings: Second Thursday (call to check) Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 7:30 p.m.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114, San Francisco, CA 94119
Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

Contact: Martine, noestrolls@yahoo.com.
Monthly Stroll: First Tuesday of month, 1 p.m. To receive stroll locations and notices of other events, e-mail your first name, and your baby's first name and age, to noestrolls@yahoo.com, or log on to the group's web site: www.noestrolls.com.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Dee Andrews, 285-6043
Mailing Address: 273A 27th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Third Wednesday of month, 7:30 p.m. Call for location.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association

Contact: Robert Roddick, 641-8692
Mailing Address: Robert T. Roddick, Noe Valley Law Offices, P.O. Box 460574, San Francisco, CA 94114-6003
Meetings: Last Wednesday (next is Aug. 28), Bank of America, 24th & Castro, 9 a.m.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Call for details.

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association

Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
E-mail: lodoosh@pacbell.net
SWMNA web site: www.lodoosh.com
Mailing Address: 1345 Guerrero St., San Francisco, CA 94110

Meetings: Second Thursday of month, Salvation Army, 3550 Cesar Chavez St., 7 p.m. (Membership includes residents who live between Mission and Fair Oaks and Cesar Chavez and 24th streets.)

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San Francisco, CA 94131
Meetings: Generally last Thursday of month (call to confirm), Upper Noe Rec Center, Day & Sanchez, 7:30 p.m.

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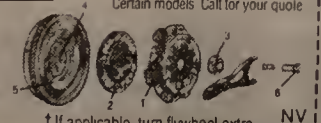
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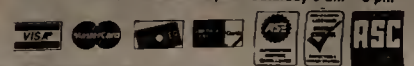
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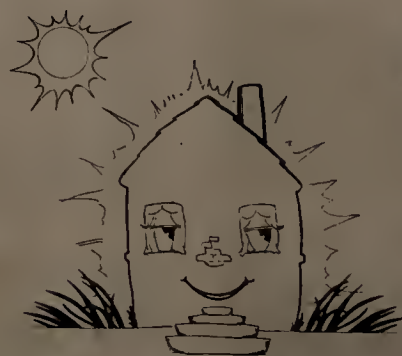
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Napa Writing Retreats. Next retreat on Aug. 4 and 5. Escape to St. Helena to write, reflect, and share your stories. Supportive group environment at a beautiful spa setting. E-mail writingretreats@hotmail.com or call 415-312-3141 for more information.

Scottish Country Dancing is fun, social, and energetic. Introductory party Thursday, Sept. 5, at 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry. \$3. Bring flat shoes. No partners needed. Basic class starts Sept. 12. Eight class series, \$40. Call 415-333-9372.

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Stress-free Living Workshop. Stress is the result of our reaction to both good and bad experiences. It may be triggered by change, by needing approval, feeling powerless, or by hostility. Medical research has shown that stress responds best to an "integral" approach, such as the practices of Integral Yoga. This workshop will offer a blueprint for reducing stress through Hatha Yoga, relaxation, meditation, and the development of a yogic perspective on change and power. Tuesday, July 30, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Home and Office Cleaning. Excellent references, professional. Reasonable rates. For more details call Marco and Sonia. 415-596-9200 or 415-577-9209.

Beginning Mosaic Workshops in idyllic setting with longtime Potrero Hill artist. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., plus Sunday, noon to 3 p.m. Create a mosaic stepping-stone: original art for your garden. All materials provided. For dates and information: Joni, 648-6740.

Kauai Vacation Rental. North Shore, three-bedroom, two-bath house, two studios. www.kathysgetaways.com; 415-647-5900.

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Intermediate Hatha Yoga Course. This is a wonderful opportunity to delve deeper into your Hatha Yoga practices, to assist your transition to intermediate Hatha Yoga drop-in classes, and to work individually on growing and perfecting more advanced postures and pranayama techniques. Please bring a towel or mat, refrain from eating for at least two hours before class, and wear loose-fitting, comfortable clothing. Please register five days in advance. Call 415-821-1117. Six Thursdays, beginning July 11, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$54. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.

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Raja Yoga Course Class. Raja Yoga teaches us time-tested and systemic methods of freeing ourselves from stress and anxiety, how to understand one's own mind, and how to use it more effectively to live peacefully and joyously. Required reading: *The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali* (available at the Institute for \$16). Please register five days in advance. Call 415-821-1117. Four Wednesdays, beginning July 17, 7:30 to 9 p.m. \$36. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St.



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Piano Lessons. Noe Valley-based musician with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, all ages, kids a specialty! 15 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

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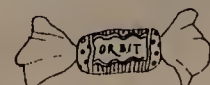
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Get Organized Now! Organized and uncluttered! Papers, closets, kitchens. Yes it is possible! Home and office. Susan Bloch, 282-0218.

Drop-In Parent/Baby Yoga. This class is for parents and their pre-crawling babies. It includes gentle stretching, chanting, breathing, deep relaxation, sharing, and discussion. Fridays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Piano Lessons in Noe Valley: Learn piano with patient, supportive teacher. Lessons tailored to individual goals. Music degree and 24 years of teaching experience. Ear training, theory, classical or popular repertoire, MTDI lab. Barbara Bennett, 648-1007.

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Drop-In Prenatal Yoga. Yoga stretches, breathing practices, and deep relaxation can assist you in maintaining an easeful, peaceful, and joyful pregnancy and a more relaxed birth. Tuesdays, 7:30 to 9 p.m., and Thursdays, 6 to 7:30 p.m. \$9. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

Flute Lessons. Noe Valley-based flutist with B.A. and M.M. in music and pedagogy, accepting students of all ages and levels. 20 years experience. Carla, 415-648-3651.

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Living Tai Chi Chuan of Noe Valley. Meditation, Qigong, Tai Chi forms. Friendly, non-competitive. Monday and Tuesday, 6 p.m., Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez. Mornings by appointment, 10:15 a.m., Douglass Park, Douglass at 27th. \$5 introduction (Mondays excluded). Chris Sequeira, practicing since 1973. 650-756-6857; 415-773-8185.

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The Key to Peace Workshop. In this workshop we will explore the power of thought in shaping one's destiny. Learn techniques to develop and maintain a more positive mental state and how to begin to experience more peace and joy in your life, right now. Tuesday, July 2, 6 to 8 p.m. \$12. Integral Yoga Institute, 770 Dolores St. 415-821-1117.

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Expressive Arts Workshops for helpers/healers. Reconnect to your life force through art, music, movement, improvisation, writing. First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. San Francisco. Come to one, or come to many! Tina Smelser, M.A., M.F.T. intern #37134, 415-255-4257. Supervised by Debra Taube, M.F.T. #29304.

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How to Place a Class Ad

IT'S EASY. Just type or print the text of your ad, multiply the number of words by **40¢ A WORD**, and send us a check or money order for the total amount. (Note that a phone number, including area code, counts as just one word.)

Then mail your ad copy and check, made out to the *Noe Valley Voice*, so that we receive it by the **15TH OF THE MONTH** before the month you'd like to advertise in. The address is *Noe Valley Voice* Class Ads, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. (Sorry, the *Voice* is unable to accept Class Ads by phone or e-mail at this time.)

10 FOR 10 DISCOUNT: The *Noe Valley Voice* publishes a news edition 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next *Noe Valley Voice* will be the September 2002 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before Sept. 1. **THE DEADLINE FOR CLASS ADS IS AUG. 15, 2002.**

Note: Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed on our web site (www.noevalleyvoice.com) for one month.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by an SASE. Thank you.

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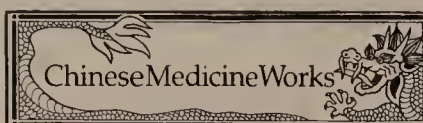
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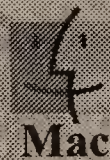
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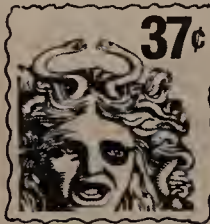
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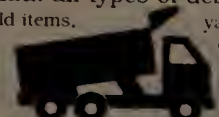
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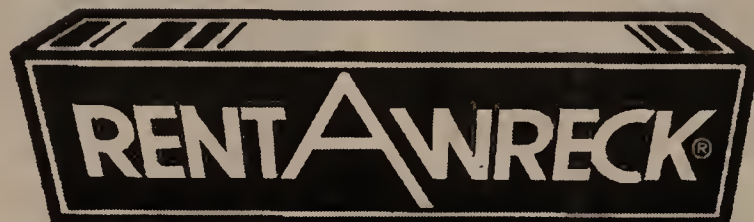
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Items-a-Go-Go

By Mazook

TREE WISHES: The Friends of the Urban Forest (FUF) dug in and planted 50 trees in Noe Valley last month. The June 15 arbor fest was organized by Noe Valleons Alison Eastwood and John Preckel. According to Preckel, a Sanchez Street resident, 35 families signed up to get the trees planted, on various blocks stretching from 21st to 30th.

The residents first went to a community meeting at the Upper Noe Rec Center, where FUF planting manager Bill Hart showed slides and helped with tree selection. The Forest Friends then made everything go smoothly: they applied to the city for permits, got approvals from the utility companies, jackhammered the sidewalk, readied the earth underneath, and showed up on Saturday with shovels and tree-planting muscle.

"I was in a group of about eight people, mostly volunteers who were Japanese exchange students from a local high school, and some Noe Valley homeowners," says Preckel. "We worked for about five hours and planted 11 trees. It was great knowing that all of the hard work organizing this group and then doing the tree planting work was over. We knew collectively we had put 50 trees around Noe Valley — trees that will be here for years improving the urban landscape."

According to the Friends of the Urban Forest executive director, Milton Marks



Neighbors enjoyed the greening of 28th Street, as homeowners, guided by volunteers from Friends of the Urban Forest, planted 50 trees in Noe Valley on June 15. Photo by Pamela Gerord

III, the exchange students were part of an official delegation from Japan whose members wanted to learn how to start a similar tree program in their home cities.

If you want to plant a tree in front of your house, contact our tree Friends electronically at www.fuf.net or telephonically at 415-561-6890.



SHOE AND TELL: In the news from Lake Noebegone, our resident conservative Harry Aleo of Twin Peaks Properties on 24th Street is now displaying a sign in his window that reads, "Welcome to an island of traditional values in a sea of liberal loonies."

On behalf of all the liberal loonies in Noe Valley, I'd like to say, Harry, thanks for the diversity—we luv ya.

Across the street from Harry's window, at the Wooden Heel—Noe Valley's oldest and only shoe repair shop—a sign went up at the end of April that read,

"Closed due to a family emergency... will reopen in two weeks."

This was bad news for the family, and bad news for those who'd left shoes in the shop, and the news got worse when the two weeks and the entire month of May came and went. Finally in June the shop opened its doors on Saturdays so customers could retrieve their shoes. By the end of June, the front windows had been covered with that white soapy stuff and a new sign in the window read, "Closed for remodeling—look for reopening."

The rumor on the street is that the previous owners, Barry and Patti Wood, who sold the store several years ago after operating it for almost 20 years, have stepped in to reopen their shoe repair business under a new name. I guess you could call it a resole shop.

In further footwear news, a long-running business on Church near Day, (Pietro) Fonda's Custom and Orthopedic Shoes—one of very few orthopedic shoe

makers in the city, and of course the only one here in Noe Valley—is moving across the street to the space recently vacated by the Omega TV repair shop. (Too bad about Omega. It was our only TV repair shop.)

Meanwhile, folks along the J-Church line are lobbying building owners in the area to rent space to a shoe repair man who was recently displaced at Mission and 29th streets (his building was demolished). My sources say that there is a good chance the Mission repair guy will move in and share space with Fonda, the orthopedic shoe maker. Then Upper Noe Valley will have its shoes completely covered.



THE HEIGHT REPORT: The news at the Star Bakery site at Church and 29th is that the people who were going to turn Star into a physical therapy studio have run out of steam. Sources say there is a backup offer for the Star building, but neither the owner nor the real estate company is willing to say more.

A new price record was set for a single-family dwelling in our neighborhood: \$3.9 million. The house is located in the 3400 block of 21st Street, in an area that real estate folks now call "Liberty Heights." Geez, the property tax bill alone would send me to dizzying heights.

Then there's that house on the corner of Sanchez and 21st streets, at the top of "Dolores Heights," which was the first of the controversial four luxury homes built in the early 1990s. Back then, the developer had bought the open space at the top of the hill for a million bucks, then got his plans approved in a lengthy permit process. The objections of many neighbors almost got the area renamed "Battle Mountain." Anyway, the developer built the four homes and sold this particular

CONTINUED ON PAGE 54

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 50

house for \$1 million. It just resold for \$3.1 million. Now that's appreciation.

☎☎☎

IN DEVELOPING NEWS: As you know from reading the June *Voice*, the fate of the Reilly Co. building on the corner of Dolores and 29th was put in the hands of the San Francisco Planning Commission last month. The developer is Joe Cassidy, who's famous for erecting that big yellow complex next to Bell Market. He has plans to demolish the old funeral home and construct four single-family townhouses facing Dolores Street and nine condos on 29th Street.

Neighbors argued that the proposed 22,000 sq. ft., four-story structure is too big, too high, and too bulky. And there's not enough parking. Well, the Planning Commission voted 5-0 in favor of granting Cassidy a conditional use permit, but it also mandated more parking. Still, the neighbors are likely to appeal the decision to the Board of Supervisors.

The other story that everyone wants an update on is the Dan's Gas Station demolition and exactly when the Noe Valley Ministry will begin building the new semi-public parking lot. Says Ministry Pastor Keenan Kelsey, "We are waiting for final permits from the city and hoping there will be some physical action started by the end of July or early August."

I'm hoping the lot will be finished by Christmas, which is the same thing I hoped last year at this time.

☎☎☎

BRANCHING OUT: The Friends of Noe

Valley reports a very successful effort to get neighborhood residents involved in filling out a survey on what they would like to see happen when the city renovates our Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library.

According to Friends activist Jeannene Przyblyski, who writes the group's monthly newsletter, "Through the talented organizing efforts of Friends of the Library Committee members Debra Niemann and Sharon Castellanos, over 400 local voices spoke out in the community survey. For one of the smallest library branches in the city where the survey is being conducted, we had the largest response, an amazing response."

Przyblyski adds that many of those surveyed want our branch "to have more books, and especially more children's books, enhanced meeting room facilities, improved adult reading space, to make sure improvements are made to enable the disabled to enter the library, and better computer access for all."

Watch for notices in September, which is when Przyblyski thinks the Library will start scheduling public meetings on the renovation.

☎☎☎

EDITORS TO THE EDITORS rained down last month, after I inadvertently failed to mention two Noe Valley establishments that were honored in the *S.F. Weekly's* "Best of San Francisco 2002" readers poll (May 15 *Weekly*).

Nine-year-old Firefly, on 24th Street near Douglass, was voted Best Restaurant in California Cuisine category. Also receiving applause was Lovejoy's Tea Room on the corner of Church and Clipper, voted Best Tea Shop in San Francisco. Please forgive the omission.

After last month's column, I wrote my own letter to the editor to correct the answer to my quiz question, What was the original name of Herb's Fine Foods when

it opened in 1943? As you history buffs knew all along, the soda fountain wasn't called "X from Noe," but "X the Noe."

When I interviewed Herb Gaines in 1990, he told me the story of how his restaurant was opened by Cyril Saunders in 1943 as a soda fountain across from the Noe Theater, on 24th near Noe. "X the Noe" soon became the spot where local moviegoers congregated before and after the flicks. Saunders also operated a soda fountain directly across from the Castro Theater, which he called "X the Castro." According to Gaines, Saunders had visions of opening "X the Blank" soda shops across from movie theaters throughout the city. But then came television. And Mel's Drive-In.

In 1953, Gaines changed the restaurant's name to Herb's, and the menu from ice cream sodas to "fine foods," like the sign still says. Gaines retired in 1972 and sold the restaurant to its present owner, Sam Kawas, who has preserved one of the last authentic greasy spoons in the city. Now it's across from Just for Fun. So say "X the Fun."

☎☎☎

ON A PERSONAL NOTE and with a sense of great loss, I bid fond farewell to one of my two aunts, Eppie Lederer. Along with the person who would later become my wife, Eppie inspired me to start writing this column in my neighborhood newspaper more than 20 years ago.

Aunt Eppie would have been 84 on July 4, 2002. On June 22, my cousin Margo (Eppie's daughter) told me on the telephone, "She's gone." She was a victim of multiple myeloma.

Aunt Eppie wrote a daily newspaper column under the pen name of Ann Landers, which appeared in 1,200 newspapers around the world with an estimated readership of 90 million. Nevertheless, she (and her twin sister "Dear Abby," who still

subscribes to the *Voice*) always wanted to know about Noe Valley issues and how folks here were voting in the elections.

From her home in Chicago, Aunt Eppie would call and ask, "Hey, what's going on out there in San Francisco?"

After I gave her the scoop, she'd often remind me of a favorite piece of advice: "Tell it like it is, but first make sure you know what it is."

That's 30, dear readers. And I'll be looking for your star in the sky tonight, Tonta Ep. ☐



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THE LAST PAGE

If I Were Oprah

❖ BY KATHY DALLE-MOLLE ❖

THIS SPRING OPRAH WINFREY, the so-called queen of books, abdicated her throne, saying no more monthly book club, no more book suggestions for you, her loyal subjects. Her claim: "It has become harder and harder to find books on a monthly basis that I feel absolutely compelled to share."

Nonsense, I say. I've got hundreds of books I would love to recommend. I've got friend upon friend—loyal readers all—who are chomping at the bit to suggest a good book to anyone willing to listen.

While the *Noe Valley Voice* doesn't provide quite the bully pulpit that a nationally syndicated talk show does, I'd still like to do my small part to keep the passion of reading alive in Noe Valley this summer. As the *New York Times* recently suggested, now that Oprah has dropped out of the book-trade scene, "a thousand Oprahs should bloom."

Here goes:

IF YOU'VE GOT AN OBSESSION with reading writers from the *New Yorker* like I do (and even if you don't), you've got to check out *Love Trouble: New and Collected Work*, short stories by the late satirist Veronica Geng. Geng offers up riffs on everything from gender relations to restaurants.

Another great read is *Picture* by the legendary journalist Lillian Ross. Da Copa Press has just published the 50th-anniversary edition of this work of nonfiction, written in the form of a novel. Voted one of the 20th century's top 100 journalistic works, *Picture* documents the making of the John Huston film *The Red Badge of Courage*. *Newsweek* has called the book "the best book on Hollywood ever published."

Among books by the younger crop of writers at the *New Yorker*, I loved *Paris to the Moon*, essays by Adam Gopnik, written from the perspective of an American man—and parent—living in Paris. I also enjoyed Susan Orlean's *The Bullfighter Checks Her Makeup*, an eclectic collection of Orlean's "best and brightest" people profiles, from notorious Olympic skater Tonya Harding to a typical 10-year-old boy named Colin Duffy.

DISCOVERING THE LATE, GREAT RICHARD YATES: The overlooked novelist and short-story writer Richard Yates influenced a number of writers who went on to achieve great success—Tobias Wolff, Richard Ford, and Ann Beattie among them. Yates led a difficult life filled with alcoholic binges and failed aspirations. After he died in 1992 at the age of 65, most of his work fell out of print, but thanks to his protégés, there lately has been renewed interest in Yates, and several of his books have been reissued. I highly recommend *Revolutionary Road*, Yates' first novel and a National Book Award nominee in 1961. *Revolutionary Road* is the story of Frank and April Wheeler, a young suburban couple who believe that greatness is just around the corner but who "mortgage their spiritual birthright, betraying not only each other, but their best selves."

I also recommend *The Easter Parade*, a novel that recounts four decades in the lives of sisters Emily and Sarah Grimes. "Neither of the Grimes sisters would have a happy life, and looking back it always seemed that the trouble began with their parents' divorce," Yates begins this spare, truthful novel.

Another must-have for any fan or soon-to-be fan of Yates is *The Collected Stories of Richard Yates*, a voluminous collection in which all of Yates' short fiction appears, including seven stories that have never before been published. Yates' autobiographical and Gatsbyesque story "Saying Goodbye to Sally" alone is worth the \$28 price of this book (\$16 in paperback).

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM "THE SOURCE": While Oprah offered up her personal literary tastes (read: novels about individual struggle and redemption), I think it's important that we expand our reading horizons as much as possible. To that end, I made a phone call to the most literate, well-read person I know—my literary Deep Throat, if you will. I call him "the Source"—because he is the source of so many wonderful books I never would have thought to read if he had not so exuberantly recommended them. "The Source" prefers to remain anonymous, but I will divulge that he is a 70ish CPA with a keen sensibility who devours books like I do the blueberry muffins at Noe Valley Bakery.

Here are his top three recommendations for a good summer read:

His first pick is *Waiting* by Ha Jin, which won the National Book Award in 1999. "Most anything Ha Jin has written is worth reading," says the Source, noting that Ha Jin left his native China in 1985 and is now a professor of English at Emory University in Atlanta. As for *Waiting's* plot, the National Book Award panel of judges tells us that it "portrays the life of Lin Kong, a dedicated doctor torn by his love for two women: one who belongs to the New China of the Cultural Revolution, the other to the ancient traditions of his family's village. Ha Jin profoundly understands the conflict between the individual and society, between the timeless universality of the human heart and constantly shifting politics of the moment."

Number two on the Source's list is *In Sicily* by Norman Lewis, the British author of 13 novels and 13 works of nonfiction. "This is a short book, only 166 pages," says the Source. "Lewis has long been fascinated with Sicily, and in this book he compares his World War II memories of the island with the changes that have since taken place. He writes of the Mafia and its influence over the lives of Sicilians and reflects on the recent African immigration and changing sexual mores."

Finally, the Source suggests *The Adventures and Misadventures of Maqroll* by Alvaro Mutis. This book, written in the form of seven novellas, received the 2002 Neustadt Prize for World Literature. The Source: "Enjoy the travels and adventures of Maqroll, a modern-day Don Quixote, as you follow his surreal journey. Gabriel García Márquez calls Mutis one of the greatest writers of our time."

WHEN YOU NEED TO LAUGH: On those chilly, foggy July days in San Francisco when I'm wondering why I live in this city, no one does a better job of cheering me up than essayist David Sedaris. I think his latest collection, *Me Talk Pretty One Day*, is his best. It's worth shelling out the \$14.95 the book costs just to read "You Can't Kill the Rooster," about Sedaris' brother Paul, who allegedly calls himself "the Rooster" when he's feeling threatened.

I also recommend the highly amusing short-story collection *Do the Windows Open?* by Julie Hecht. The nine stories are all narrated by a neurotic, 40-something photographer named Isabelle, who is on a never-ending quest to photograph "Dr. Arnold Loquestro, the world-renowned reproductive surgeon." Her diatribes on a careless floor sander and her East Hampton neighbors are hilarious.

YES, POETRY CAN BE READ IN THE HOME: I must confess that I don't read much poetry, although I did recently enjoy *The Beauty of the Husband* by noted Canadian poet Anne Carson (another suggestion from "the Source"). Subtitled "a fictional essay in 29 tangos," Carson's book is the story of a marriage, as well as a rumination on Keats' idea that beauty is truth.

For further suggestions in this category, I went to my friend and poet P.J. Taylor. She recommends *Sailing Alone Around the Room: New and Selected Poems*, by current poet laureate Billy Collins, who also happens to be a rare species among poets... a truly popular poet. As P.J. explained to me, "Billy Collins writes deceptively light verse. You remember his poems. You want to know parts of them by heart. Mostly, you want to grab someone and say, 'Listen.' This is a good book of poems to share with a loved one. It's perfect Sunday morning coffee in bed reading."

P.J. also recommends *Americans' Favorite Poems*, edited

by U.C. Berkeley professor and former poet laureate Robert Pinsky, which offers up 200 poems enthusiastically suggested by American readers along with moving testimonials about the various works.

CULTURAL ANTHROPOLOGY: I have two suggestions in this not-exactly-light-reading category. First is social commentator Barbara Ehrenreich's *Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America*, which explores the harsh realities faced by low wage earners in this country. Over the course of two years, Ehrenreich posed as a homemaker lacking in workplace skills who was attempting to reenter the job market. Ehrenreich lived in cheap motels, survived on fast food, and took whatever minimum-wage job she could get, including waitress, house-cleaner, and Wal-Mart sales clerk. The book, which was inspired by the rhetoric surrounding welfare reform, asks the question, "How does anyone live on the wages available to the unskilled?" *Nickel and Dimed* is enlightening, sometimes tragic, sometimes funny.

The second is *The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down* by Anne Fadiman, which looks at the conflict between the doctors at a hospital in Merced, Calif., and a refugee family from Laos over the care of a small Hmong child diagnosed with severe epilepsy. This book, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Non-fiction, offers up evenhanded, suspenseful—in a word, awesome—literary journalism in recounting a highly disturbing story.

FOR PEOPLE IN SEARCH OF MYSTERY: Again, I'm not a mystery reader, but my friend P.J. is. She highly recommends any books by British crime novelist Minette Walters, including *The Ice House*, *The Scold's Bridle*, and *The Sculptress*. Walters' work has been translated into 32 languages. "There's no lead detective," says P.J. "These books are tense, psychological thrillers. I've read every one so far. They are mysteries for people who demand their mysteries be smart and well-written."

P.J. also suggests any mystery written by Kathy Reichs. "Like [best-selling mystery author] Patricia Cornwell's protagonist Kay Scarpetta, Reichs' Temperance Brennan works with solving murders, but she isn't perfect like Scarpetta," says P.J. "Scarpetta has the perfect Mercedes, the perfect house, and is a gourmet cook. Temperance Brennan is a real-woman detective. She's a divorced, recovering alcoholic, and she can't cook." *Death du Jour* is one of Reichs' most popular works.

FINAL THOUGHTS: Any of these books can be purchased at one of our three great 24th Street bookstores. Cover to Cover, at 3812 24th Street near Church, is your best bet for new books, and if they don't have what you're looking for in stock, they'll special-order it for you. Just ask. They'll also accept orders online through www.covertocoversf.com, or call 282-8080 and order by phone.

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For mystery and suspense lovers, the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, at 4175 24th Street near Diamond, is the place to go for both new and used titles. Check out the store's web site at www.sfmysterybooks.com for upcoming events and recommendations. The phone number is 282-7444.

And don't forget the Noe Valley—Sally Brunn Library, located at 451 Jersey Street near Castro, which has an abundant selection of books, including a substantial women's studies collection. For library hours and other information, call 695-5095 or check out the San Francisco Library's web site at <http://sfpl.org>. Through the web, you can reserve a title and have it sent to your local branch for pickup. You can also suggest books you'd like to see in the library, but haven't found in the online catalog. Happy reading!

Kathy Dalle-Molle is the "Last Page" editor and an 11-year contributor to the *Noe Valley Voice*. She has worked as a freelance book editor, permissions editor, and researcher for Alfred A. Knopf, Random House, and Jossey-Bass for more than a decade.